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ימי שבת

WORLD OF SPORT
Bulls in 6
It's ALL in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

Change in conversion policy may cause fury

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE final version of the Netanyahu government's guidelines includes a pledge to change the law so that conversions to Judaism performed in Israel must be authorized by the Chief Rabbinate. Non-Orthodox leaders say this, and possibly other aspects of the coalition deal, are likely to fuel sharp protest in the American Jewish community. (Full text of guidelines, Page 3)

Last November, the High Court of Justice struck down an invalid government regulation which forbade the Interior Ministry from registering as Jews those converted in Israel by non-Orthodox movements. As such, it gave de facto recognition to Reform and Conservative conversions, but refrained from recognizing them explicitly and instead turned the matter over to the Knesset for new legislation. So far, the Knesset has not acted.

Moreover, coalition agreements signed between the Likud and the National Religious Party and Shas suggest that the current law will be amended to ensure the non-Orthodox will be barred from serving on local religious councils. The coalition agreements also call for the "indefinite" continuation of a ban on the government importing non-kosher meat. Finally, it was agreed a committee will be formed to deal with specific complaints of archeological digs being conducted.

(Continued on Page 4)

Yeltsin, Zyuganov face runoff

MOSCOW - President Boris Yeltsin won a narrow first round victory over his communist rival in Russia's election and began trying to lure a law-and-order general over to his side yesterday to help win the run-off.

With 98 percent of the vote counted, Yeltsin led communist arch-foe Gennady Zyuganov by 34.82 percent to 32.13, setting the stage for a decisive second-round ballot, possibly as early as July 3.

Key to success in the runoff appeared to lie with capturing the huge support for tough-talking general Alexander Lebed, 46, who finished in third place with about 10 million votes.

Keen to maximize support, Yeltsin asked the parliament yesterday to bring closer the decisive second round.

His press office said Yeltsin asked the State Duma lower house to pronounce Wednesday, July 5, as an official day off.

President Bill Clinton praised Russians yesterday. "This is a very significant thing for Russia to have this election," Clinton said. "The Russian people are to be complimented and the Russian leadership is to be complimented for supporting the constitution and the elective process."

(Agencies)

Full report, Page 4



Prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu and Prime Minister Shimon Peres at yesterday's ceremonial opening of the 14th Knesset. (Isaac Harari)

New Knesset opens with psalms and fanfare

LIAT COLLINS

WITH flowers, fanfare, psalms, and honor guards, the 14th Knesset opened yesterday in the presence of President Ezer Weizman, diplomats, former MKs and ministers, judges, and other dignitaries.

"This honor is mixed with pride," said Weizman in his opening address. "This is the 14th time the State of Israel comes out of the elections presenting the world with its democratic voting card. For, after all, there is nothing like free elections to express the wishes of the free people in its own country," Weizman said.

"It is the nature of elections in all democratic regimes to sharpen the differences between those competing for the vote. This competition, like all competitions, raises hopes and expectations, creates emotions and tensions, and occasionally even spills over into crude rivalry. But, to the credit of the citizens of Israel, it should be said that after every election, as the smoke of the propaganda clears, they always accept the law of the ballot booth, as if fitting for an enlightened state."

A very marked part of Weizman's speech was dedicated to praising outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres: "I have one short, but big word: 'Thanks.'"

He described Peres as a statesman who has devoted his life to developing Israel in all fields. Weizman also complimented Peres's successor, "To the elected prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, with the handing over of the scepter to your hands, the country's leadership is being handed over to a younger generation."

He said Netanyahu's election proves his abilities. "Netanyahu is taking a heavy responsibility upon his shoulders. We all hope that his proven ability to overcome difficult obstacles will eventually yield the desired results. All the

prime ministers of the past saw peace as the desired aim."

Weizman called for unity and expressed the wish that the new system of direct elections "proves itself."

"This Knesset reflects more than ever the new Israel, which in recent years absorbed some 700,000 immigrants," Weizman said, from his seat facing the MKs of Yisrael Ba'aliya. It is also the first Knesset to have an Ethiopian-born MK, Adisu Massala (Labor).

Peres looked uncomfortable in his temporary role as Speaker, a position granted him as the oldest MK at 72. He also stressed the need to continue the peace process. "Now we must build peace which will complete the Zionist vision. Most of my years I have dedicated to bringing peace and security to Israel, and from now on, all my efforts, within the Knesset and without, will be dedicated with full force to peace."

Peres quoted David Ben-Gurion and called on the House to maintain reasonable standards of discourse and dialogue and avoid hatred.

The festive session opened with the reading of Psalm 122, also known as the prayer for the peace of Jerusalem, which speaks of "the rebuilt Jerusalem, the city that is united together."

The reading, a new addition to the opening ceremony, was not in deference to the large number of religious MKs in this Knesset, but a legal requirement following a law submitted by Ze'ev Binyamin Begin (Likud) last year, more for nationalist than religious reasons. The law also obliges the reading of excerpts from the Scroll of Independence, which calls for a state

for Jews, based on freedom, justice, peace, and equal rights for all citizens of all faiths and races.

The MKs from Arab and far-left parties squirmed as the psalm was read, but the Knesset's first plenum session passed without major incident as each MK in turn repeated "I pledge" to the oath: "I pledge allegiance to the State of Israel and to faithfully fulfill my task in the Knesset."

Taleb a-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) made his pledge in Arabic. The absence of new MK Abdul Malik Dahamshe (DAP) was particularly noticeable, but it was apparently explained by a traffic jam. Dahamshe turned up after the ceremony and proceeded to act like a veteran MK - he headed straight for the Knesset cafeteria. He was later sworn in during a procedural session chaired by Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi.

The first MK to be sworn in, according to alphabetical order, was Yuli Edelstein (Yisrael Ba'aliya). Five MKs were absent: Dahamshe, Aryeh Deri (Shas), who is abroad; Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism), who was sick; Yona Yahav (Labor), who was attending his wife's doctorate graduation ceremony; and Dan Tichon (Likud). Tichon's absence was apparently a protest move. He left the building shortly after being told he would have to compete against other Likud hopefuls for the Speaker's chair.

Most of the MKs brought their families to witness the swearing in ceremony. The youngest Netanyahu, Yair, spent the ceremony asleep on his mother's lap, and did not even wake up at the sound of Hatikva. As the first session of the 14th Knesset closed, Yair Netanyahu was carried out, eyes still closed.

Guidelines spur Arab states to get tough with Israel

COMMENT

DAVID MAKOVSKY

STATE-RUN Syrian Radio said that the just-issued Netanyahu government guidelines are an "announcement of war against peace." (Story, Page 2)

Even assuming this is hyperbole, one should certainly not expect an easy ride at the first Arab summit in six years that convenes later this week. Nor should one expect to find a clear-cut basis for the US to press for the resumption of peace talks between Israel and Syria.

While the US has urged the Arabs "not to close doors" and not to prejudge prime minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu, since campaign rhetoric is often different from government policy, it was hoping that the guidelines wouldn't be as explicit as the ones that were released.

There are fears that the hardline

axis of Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara may now feel that the Netanyahu government has given them material with which to seek a tougher approach in dealing with Israel than that favored by Jordan and some Gulf states.

Furthermore, Syria has said frequently that it will not negotiate with Israel if it declares that it intends to retain sovereignty over any part of the Golan. Yitzhak Rabin began his tenure by saying "withdrawal on the Golan, but not from the Golan," but dropped the second half of that sentence very quickly. It is hard to see how the

Netanyahu government will be providing the US any diplomatic "wiggle room" to persuade the Syrians that its guidelines make Syrian control of the Golan even remotely possible.

Finally, the possible appointment of Ariel Sharon to the Housing Ministry will remind Arabs of his last tenure there, when he was the architect of Israel's settlement policies, which brought the last Likud government on a collision course with the US.

Arab commentators have warned against what they call Netanyahu's "three nos": No to giving up the Golan, to Palestinian statehood, and to sharing sovereignty in Jerusalem. Below are some of the main points in the guidelines that Moussa and Shara are likely to seize upon:

- Insistence on Israeli sovereignty on the Golan as part of a deal with Syria.
- Moreover, the coalition agreement between Labor and The Third Way calls for greater resources to be allocated to reinforcing settlement on the Golan Heights.
- Opposition to a Palestinian state.
- Antagonism to the return of Palestinian refugees to the territories.
- An undivided Jerusalem will remain Israel's "exclusive capital." (This was also endorsed by Labor in 1992.)
- Settlements, albeit unspecified, will be bolstered in the territories. (Continued on Page 2)

Netanyahu to present gov't today

SARAH HONIG

PRIME minister-elect Binyamin Netanyahu promised to present his new government to the Knesset at 4 p.m. today, but last night no one around him could say with certainty who would hold which portfolio.

More precisely, no job could be found for a humiliated MK Ariel Sharon, and there was uncertainty surrounding the offer of the Finance portfolio to Dan Meridor.

All this followed a day of the most bizarre twists and turns yet seen in the coalition negotiating process.

Meridor was summoned from his home in mid-morning and informed that Netanyahu had retreated from the idea of appointing Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel as finance minister, and that the portfolio would be his. But by nightfall, this was no longer certain.

On Sunday, Sharon had rejected the Housing portfolio, but was told that Netanyahu would hold it in trust for him. At 9 yesterday morning, Sharon informed Netanyahu that he had decided to take Housing after all. No one indicated there was a problem.

During the Knesset session in the afternoon, however, Sharon was shown a copy of the coalition agreement with United Torah Judaism, which stipulated very clearly that the ministry would remain in Netanyahu's hands, but would be run by a UTJ deputy minister.

A short investigation revealed that the deal with UTJ was sealed five hours before Sharon called Netanyahu. But no one bothered to tell him that he was too late and that the portfolio was no longer available. Sharon was left in a huff, and those close to him said that he cannot understand why he is being treated in such a fashion.

No one around Netanyahu could come up with an explanation either, and near-frantic attempts were underway to solve what was dubbed "the Sharon problem."

Among the creative solutions offered was dividing Housing, with half going to UTJ and the other to Sharon. However, if Sharon was unenthusiastic about the entire portfolio, he is unlikely to settle for half of it, especially after the shabby treatment accorded him.

UTJ, which fought hard for the portfolio, is also unlikely to let go of a half.

Another idea was that UTJ be given the Religious Affairs portfolio, and in return let Sharon have Housing. However Religious Affairs is already held jointly by the National Religious Party and Shas, who had agreed to share it in rotation.

The NRP said it is ready to make the sacrifice just to get (Continued on Page 9)

New PM finally gets his majority

SARAH HONIG

BINYAMIN Netanyahu finally cobbled together a coalition yesterday afternoon, minutes before the new Knesset was summoned to its first session - or so it seemed.

United Torah Judaism appeared to have made a deal and signed the agreement, but until late last night no one in the Likud had an inkling as to whether the new government was really getting the partnership of the entire four-man UTJ faction or just two of its MKs.

For its part, the Likud was trying hard to back out of the deal - which gave the Housing portfolio to UTJ - no matter how many UTJ MKs it applied to. The Likud wanted the portfolio back, so it could give it to MK Ariel Sharon, who informed Netanyahu yesterday morning that he was willing to accept it.

In their rush to complete the agreement before the new Knesset was installed, Likud negotiators failed to notice that only one of the two factions which comprise UTJ showed up for the signing. MKs Avraham Ravitz and Moshe Gafni of Degel Hatorah, which follows Rabbi Eliezer Schach, did not attend the ceremony. Only MKs Meir Porush and Shmuel Halper, who represent Agudat Yisrael, were there.

Gafni later warned that Porush's signature does not bind Degel Hatorah. At the last minute, Schach raised a new demand - the Religious Affairs portfolio.

which the National Religious Party and Shas had been fighting over for the past two weeks. They finally agreed to share it in rotation, although they are still quarreling over who will go first.

Likud officials were stunned at the possibility that a powerful ministry had been given to a two-man faction. And the Housing Ministry is not all UTJ got. It also picked up the chairmanship of the powerful Knesset Finance Committee, and a promise that "the sensitivities of residents in neighborhoods which are largely religious would be respected."

This is taken to mean that Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan might soon be closed on Shabbat and holidays.

Another undertaking is that new municipal elections will be held in Bnei Brak within six months. The city is now being run by an appointed committee.

The Likud would like to keep Housing for Sharon, perhaps by giving UTJ Religious Affairs instead. This would please Degel Hatorah, but might upset Aguda. The NRP is willing to yield the portfolio to enable Sharon to join the government, but Shas has yet to agree.

While nothing is clear as far as Aguda is concerned, Yisrael Ba'aliya is firmly in the coalition, and that is what matters most to Netanyahu, for it gives him the Knesset majority he needs. (Continued on Page 4)

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מי עדן
השמפניה של הסגן

Syria: Netanyahu risks war

DAMASCUS (Reuter) - Syria blasted prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu in its various official media yesterday, saying his government's platform risked sparking a regional war and was full of hate towards Arabs.

"If the new Israeli prime minister sought to apply his election platform in its current status, that means he is putting an end to the peace process and sparking all factors of struggle, wars and violence in the region because Arabs will never give up their rights," the newspaper *Tishreen* said.

"The form of the new Israeli government goes to show...that the region is approaching anything but peace," wrote *al-Baath*, the newspaper of Syria's ruling party.

"Netanyahu's program, which is full of hate towards Arabs, and his insistence on keeping Arab lands is enough proof to convince everybody that the Israeli expansionist and aggressive policy is escalating," it added.

"Syria will not go back one inch on its demand for full Israeli

withdrawal from the Golan, south Lebanon and the rest of the occupied Arab lands," *Tishreen* said.

"Moreover, Syria considers the Golan withdrawal the key for peace in the whole region," it added.

Al-Baath said this week's Arab summit would stress that Arab countries wanted peace "that would return all of their rights because this will be the real peace that would provide security and stability to everybody".

"The Cairo summit will not close its doors to peace...but rather it will protect the peace process from the attempts to sabotage it," Syria Radio added.

"Arabs will give Israel, if it really wants peace, the chance to revive and speed up the talks.

"If Israel does not clearly reciprocate on the basis of a just and comprehensive peace, and continues its aggressive and expansionist policies, it shall bear the responsibility for returning the region to tensions and explosions," the radio said.

Likud to choose new Knesset speaker today

THE Likud faction is scheduled to meet today to decide who will be the speaker of the 14th Knesset, with Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Dan Tichon, Naomi Blumenthal and Shaul Amor the leading candidates.

Tichon, who did not attend the new Knesset's swearing-in ceremony yesterday, was said to have boycotted it to protest the fact that he is not the only candidate for the post, and it is possible he will withdraw his candidacy.

Ben-Elissar is considered the most likely candidate, though there has been a public

lobby by women's groups and prominent women for Blumenthal. The vote will be secret and prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu will participate. If the faction succeeds in electing a speaker, he or she will take up the post before today's session at which the government is expected to be presented.

Yesterday, the Likud faction held a short meeting, during which Netanyahu apologized for keeping the MKs in the dark

about the coalition and cabinet negotiations.

"I know you have been through an unusual two weeks, when all of us were entrenched in the work of building [the coalition.] There wasn't always a way for me to let you participate in what was going on and I know it naturally gave rise to questions and doubts. I promise you, this was done only for work reasons and with full respect for each and everyone of you.

I see you as partners in changing the face of the country," Netanyahu said. Ariel Sharon and Ze'ev Begin did not attend the meeting. Dan Meridor made a last-minute entrance, refusing to talk to the waiting reporters.

Netanyahu said he hoped to pass the so-called Norwegian Law, which would oblige ministers to resign as MKs and free up some more places for Likud members lower down on the party's Knesset list. The new opposition is promising to mobilize against the Norwegian Law.

New MKs attend swearing-in ceremony

LIAT COLLINS

NEW MKS accompanied by their families were greeted with flowers as they entered the Knesset for yesterday's swearing-in ceremony. The floral tribute, courtesy of the Flower Growers Association, was probably the warmest welcome they will get in the House for the next four years.

Knesset ushers, in dress uniform, constantly consulted picture charts to check the identities of the new rulers of the land and looked relieved when they spotted a familiar face.

Even those who did their homework made mistakes. New Labor MK Sofia Landver, one of the nine women MKs, was wrongly identified as "someone's wife."

While Alex Lubotsky (The Third Way) noted that most people thought he was part of Natan Sharansky's *Yisrael Ba'aliya* because he "is new and has a Russian-sounding name."

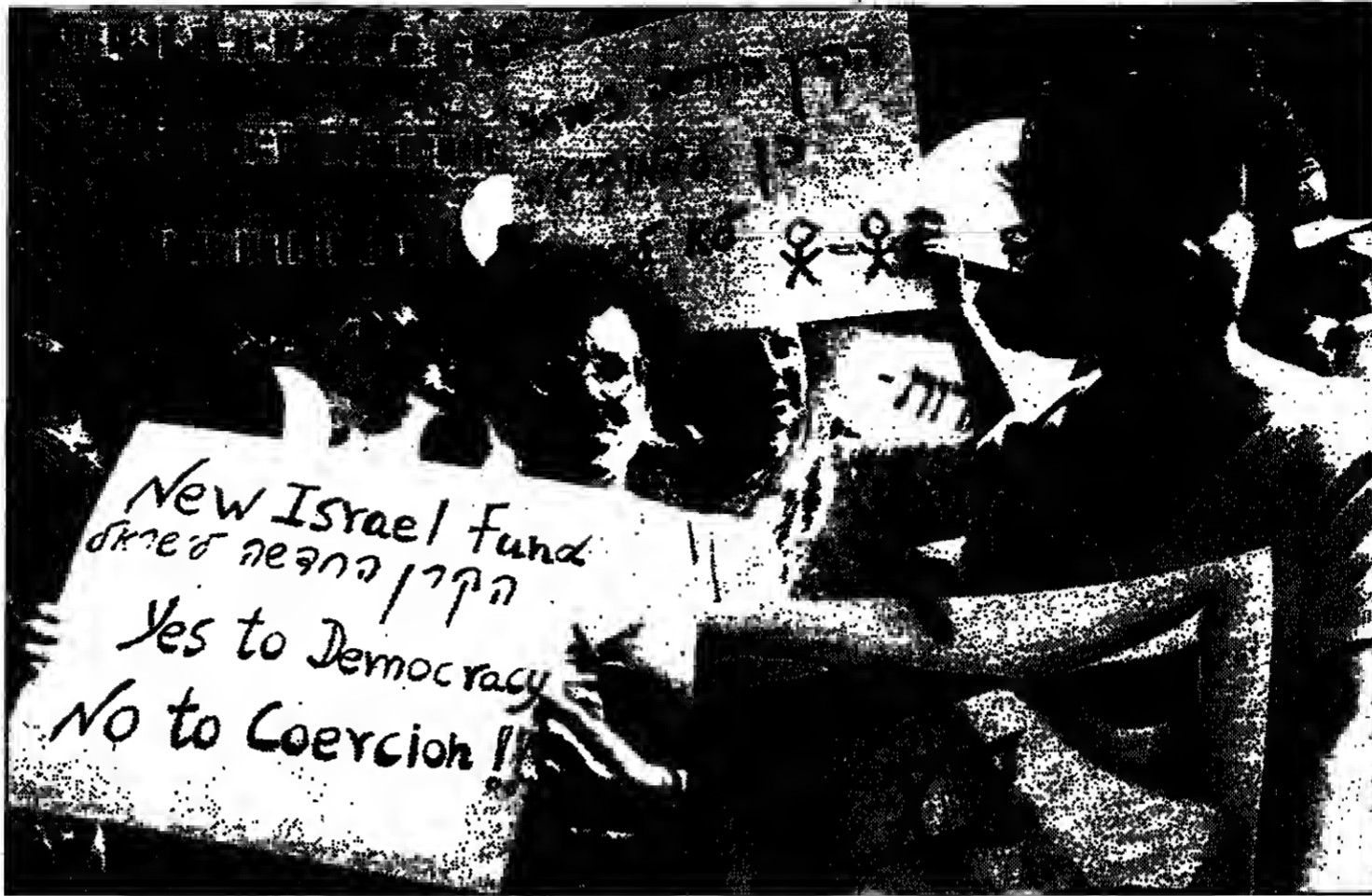
The MKs and ministers who have to adapt to a new opposition role tried to put on a brave face, but for most it was a grimace, not a smile with which they greeted the victors. "I have spent many, many years in the opposition and I'm highly trained in it," said Yossi Sarid, who is losing his Environment Ministry post for the opposition benches. "I'm not happy about it, but we're prepared to execute our work in the Knesset."

Naomi Chazan (Meretz) said she rejoiced in "the opportunity to really start criticizing the government."

Emotions among the MKs of the winning parties were predictably happier. Asked how she felt, Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said "wonderful." Eliezer Zandberg (Isomet) described his predominant feeling as "tired" but was quick to point out it isn't late-night coalition talks or newfound responsibility keeping him awake at night. It's the combination of a newborn baby and the pressure of moving homes this week.

Former deputy head of the General Security Service and new Likud MK Gideon Ezra was not sure about how he would survive the change from the security to the political world but was confident he would cope.

"I can't tell yet because it's only the first day, but I don't think you should change yourself because you are in a new place. You have to act according to your goals."



Demonstrators protest against what they claim is a threat of religious coercion under the new government at the Knesset yesterday. (Brian Handberg)

Protesters demand religious pluralism, women's rights

YOCHI DREAZEN

SOME 250 people, representing liberal activist groups, women's organizations, and the Reform and Conservative movements, demonstrated outside the Knesset during yesterday's opening plenum demanding religious pluralism and equal rights for women.

"This is a wall-to-wall coalition of different groups and interests joining together to show the special threat posed by the ultra-Orthodox parties," said Rabbi Uri Regev, the head of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center. "The religious parties can't seem to agree on anything other than their hatred of anything that smells of pluralism."

He added that he was particularly concerned by the parties' plans to try to circumvent recent Supreme Court rulings on issues relating to

religion.

"The biggest threat is their general intent to uphold the status-quo by nprooting Supreme Court decisions," he said.

Zamira Segev, one of the protest's organizers and executive-director of the Coalition for Freedom of Religion, Science, and Culture, said, "Our aim is to send a message to the elected prime minister that we won't accept his surrender to the religious parties," she added.

The protest, sponsored by a new group called the Freedom Coalition, was attended by several people from abroad, who are concerned about the effect religious coercion would have on Israel-Diaspora relations.

"Many of us come from countries where Jews are respected as a minority," said Martin Elton, a university professor from the US. "It's a tragedy that when Jews are the majority, there's so little respect for minorities and diversity."

Many of the protesters expressed disappointment that the number of women MKs fell from 12 to nine, and that only the Likud's Limor Livnat seemed likely to serve in the cabinet.

"Women still aren't thought of as a constituency which the major parties must relate to in order to gain power," said Alice Shalvi, head of the Israel Women's Network. "It's especially galling because the last Knesset was so extraordinary in passing legislation on women's issues."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two killed in road accidents

A man was killed yesterday morning when his car crashed head-on into a truck on the Yokne'am-Zichron Ya'acov road.

Police said the accident happened not far from Bat Shlomo, when the car traveling toward Yokne'am suddenly swerved into the opposite lane and collided with the oncoming truck.

Another fatal accident occurred near Peki'in in the Galilee last night. Police reported that a car pulled off the road, went out of control and overturned. One person was killed and two others in the car were badly injured.

Earlier in the day, on the road between Hadera and the Barkai junction, five people were lightly to moderately hurt when a car collided with a truck. *David Rudge*

Boy drowns off Haifa beach

The body of nine-year-old Ashto Beina, who disappeared after he went swimming off Haifa's Carmel beach on Saturday afternoon, was found yesterday on the shore not far from where he went missing. Police and volunteers were involved in widespread searches for the youngster when his family reported that he had failed to return on Saturday evening to his home on the Neveh Carmel caravan site, south of Haifa. *David Rudge*

Screening test for colon cancer launched

Kupat Holim Clalit has launched a program to screen people over the age of 50, and others at high risk, for colon cancer. The health fund is encouraging members to undergo a simple test to detect occult blood in the stools.

Each year, some 1,600 new cases of colon cancer are diagnosed here. Unless treated early, many of them are fatal, but if caught at a preliminary stage, polyps and tumors can be easily removed by endoscopy.

Dr. Gad Remmet, director of the health fund's community medicine and epidemiology department, said cancer of the large intestine and rectum is now the most common cancer in the country. Occult blood in the stools can be a sign of the problem. *Judy Siegel*

Barak takes leave of diplomatic corps

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak bid farewell yesterday to the diplomatic corps, at a reception in Jerusalem attended by some 60 ambassadors. Noticeably absent was Jordanian Ambassador Omar Rifai.

Barak said he was proud of the achievements of the Rabin-Peres government, and was convinced that Israel had to take measured risks for peace. However, he added, "it takes two to tango. The Arabs must also take positive steps to advance the peace process. Israel will never give in to outside pressure, with regard to anything that concerns its vital interests and security." *Itim*

Jordan: Israelis can't come with cell-phones

Jordan has barred travelers from Israel from bringing in cellular telephones to curb "enormous" losses the kingdom's network was suffering because of widespread use of the Israeli instruments, an official said yesterday.

Yousef Abu Jamous, director of the Telecommunications Corporation's Regularity Commission, said border authorities have been instructed to allow only official delegates to keep their mobile phones when they cross into Jordan. *AP*

Green groups rap Environment, Agriculture Ministry merger

LIAT COLLINS

THE Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and other environmentalist groups held a small demonstration outside the Knesset yesterday to protest plans to merge the Environment and Agriculture ministries.

"All the achievements which have been made regarding the environment in the last few years will go to waste," said SPNI chairman Yoav Sagi. "Under the previous government, the Environment Ministry developed and reached a certain stand-

ard. There is a conflict of interests between the Environment and Agriculture ministries, particularly these days when there is tremendous pressure to rezone agricultural land.

Today, the Environment Ministry is the last brake against pressures by owners of agricultural land to rezone it and bring about unsupervised land development, like that noted in the

Kadmon Report on industrial development on moshavim." Sagi also noted that the Environment Ministry does crucial monitoring of the quality of underground water.

"Only in recent months has the mistake of years been rectified and the Nature Reserves Authority been moved from the Agriculture to the Environment Ministry. It is unthinkable that a new government should turn the wheels of time backward," Sagi said.

Proposed justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman - an expert in financial law

BACKGROUND
EVELYN GORDON

THE proposed appointment of attorney Ya'acov Ne'eman as justice minister seems to show that prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu is serious about making economic reform a top priority for the new government.

Unlike Justice Minister David Liba'i, whose field of expertise is criminal law, Ne'eman is a specialist in corporate, financial, and tax law, and co-authored one of the standard works on the latter subject. His views on what needs to be done about the economy are also very similar to Netanyahu's.

However, despite his acknowledged expertise, his track record on implementing his ideas has not been unimpaired.

Ne'eman, 54, is Orthodox Jew and has for many years been associated with the National Religious Party. In 1979, he authored an economic platform for the party which called for accelerated sale of state companies, capital market reform, freeing up state land to ease the housing crisis, and canceling taxes on imported building materials - a program which Netanyahu would

be happy to implement in its entirety. Like Netanyahu, Ne'eman has also consistently favored lowering income taxes, cutting budgets, reducing the number of government employees, and reducing bureaucracy.

This ideological bent, combined with 15 years of experience as a partner in the prestigious corporate law firm of Herzog-Fox-Ne'eman, make him a good choice to oversee the drafting of legislation to achieve to this program.

However, Ne'eman was not especially effective in implementing these goals as director-general of the Finance Ministry, a position he held from 1979-81. Not only was his ministry unsuccessful in curbing the rampant hyperinflation of those years, but the Bejski Commission found him to be one of the figures responsible for the 1983 bank shares collapse.

Ne'eman also served on the board of El Al during those years - a time when the airline's financial position worsened steadily, until it finally collapsed and went into receivership in 1982.

However, he is one of only two directors to have voted against what later proved to be a disastrous wage agreement.

Another area in which Ne'eman is likely to be useful to Netanyahu is in the thorny area of religious-secular relations, since he is trusted by both sides. His sympathy with religious interests runs deep. As far back as 1972, while serving as chairman of Bar-Ilan University's Law School, Ne'eman proposed a bill to give large families certain financial benefits - something which the religious parties have worked ever since to pass, finally succeeding during the last Knesset.

In contrast, Likud MK Dan Meridor, the other main contender for the post, is viewed with some suspicion by these parties, since he who introduced the hated basic laws to the Knesset, as Yitzhak Shamir's justice minister.

However, Ne'eman also has a

proven ability to get along well with secular politicians from every side of the House. Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish appointed him to head a commission on encouraging film production, and former interior minister Uzi Baram (Labor) placed him at the head of a committee investigating financial irregularities in Bnei Brak. This committee ultimately recommended that the city's elected council be replaced by an appointed one until its finances were straightened out.

Ne'eman is also considered an opponent of the judicial activism represented by Supreme Court President Aharon Barak - something which may have contributed to the rejection of his candidacy for a seat on the Supreme Court in 1982. However, the major factor behind his rejection was apparently the fact that, if appointed, he would have brought the number of Orthodox justices up to four out of 12.

The one major scandal in Ne'eman's career was his involvement in the Bus 300 affair, in which the General

Security Service shot two captured terrorists and then lied about it. Ne'eman helped broker a deal whereby then GSS chief Avraham Shalom and three assistants were given a blanket pardon without even being charged, in exchange for Shalom's resignation. The deal, which spared the government the necessity of investigating the affair, was made without the knowledge of then attorney-general Yosef Harish, and was sharply criticized by jurists as undermining the rule of law and the office of the attorney-general.

Ne'eman was also handled the late Robert Maxwell's business dealings here. However, despite the dubiousness of Maxwell's business practices elsewhere, there has been no suspicion of any irregularities in his Israeli operations.

Ne'eman is married with six children, and lives in Jerusalem, in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City.

With deep sorrow we wish to announce the passing of

RABBI ZEVI TABORY

who devoted his life to the People of Israel, the Torah of Israel and the Land of Israel as a leading rabbi and educator in Eastern Europe, the United States and Israel

mourning by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Shiva at the Himelestein home, 22 Shear Yashuv Street, Ramot 02, Jerusalem, until Friday afternoon

The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities mourns the loss of

Prof BERNARD PULLMAN

Paris

Friend and advocate of the Israeli scientific community

"Seeing Eyes for the Blind in Israel" extends sincere condolences to

Nathan Silver on the passing of his

BROTHER

(Continued from Page 1)

Also, the "Greater Jerusalem area" will be built up.

● Negotiations with the Palestinian Authority (PA) on the final disposition of the territories is contingent upon the PA living up to its commitments. In contrast, there is no mention of Israel adhering to commitments made by previous governments.

● The government will allow the IDF and security forces "to act against the threat of terrorism everywhere."

An aide to Netanyahu last night insisted that the new guidelines do not end negotiations with Syria and that there is no inherent contradiction between its call for talks with Damascus "without preconditions" and the following categorical statement: "Retaining Israeli sovereignty over the Golan will be the basis for an arrangement with Syria." This reference to the Golan is a toughening of an earlier version of the guidelines made public by

the Likud parliamentary office last week.

The aide said, "there is a fundamental difference between the positions of the parties and the rules of negotiations. Here the Likud government does not impose its views on the rules of negotiations and therefore, leaves the door open to continuing diplomatic initiatives."

It would take an important speech by Netanyahu in the Knesset today to convince Arabs he remains the pragmatic candidate who ran on the slogan that he will make a "safe peace."

Good Jewish Boys

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The lives and crimes of Jewish gangsters.

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אפיקים לשיא

The new government's guidelines

THE government presented to the Knesset will act on the premise that the right of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel is eternal and indisputable, that the State of Israel is the state of the Jewish people, whose democratic government guarantees equality for all its citizens, and whose main goal is the ingathering and integration of the Jewish people.

The striving for national unity, social justice, and personal liberty, and the search for genuine peace with all our neighbors, while safeguarding national and personal security, shall serve as the basis for the government's policies.

The government will work to achieve the following goals:

1. Achieving peace with all our neighbors, while safeguarding national and personal security.
2. Reinforcing the status of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Jewish people.
3. Increasing immigration to Israel, and integrating new immigrants in all walks of life.
4. Creating conditions for a free, thriving economy and social welfare.
5. Strengthening, broadening and developing settlement in Israel.
6. Promoting values of the State of Israel as a Jewish, democratic state, while maintaining a proper balance between the will of the majority and the rights of individual and minorities.
7. Broadening education and strengthening the bond to Jewish heritage and the realization of Zionism.

PEACE, SECURITY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

1. The government of Israel will work to broaden the circle of peace with all its neighbors, for the good of Israel's citizens and the region's inhabitants, while safeguarding Israel's vital interests.
2. The government will reinforce and develop its peaceful relations with Egypt and Jordan.
3. The government will conduct negotiations with Syria without pre-conditions.
4. The government will work to raise the level of relations with other Arab countries which have connections with Israel: Qatar, Oman, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, and will work towards mutual recognition and cooperation with Arab countries with which Israel does not have diplomatic relations.
5. The government will use all means at its disposal to bring home the prisoners of war and missing in action and all those who worked for the security of the state, and will insist on this point during negotiations with all relevant parties.
6. The government will negotiate with the Palestinian Authority, with the intent of reaching a permanent arrangement, on the condition that the Palestinians fulfill all their commitments fully.
7. The government will propose to the Palestinians an arrangement whereby they will be able to conduct their lives freely within the framework of self-government. The government will oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state or any foreign sovereignty west of the Jordan River, and will oppose "the right of return" of Arab populations to any part of the Land of Israel west of the Jordan River.
8. In any political arrangement, Israel shall insist on ensuring the existence and security of Jewish settlements and their affinity with the State of Israel. The government will continue to bear full responsibility for the Jewish settlements and their residents.
9. The government views the Golan Heights as essential to the security of the state and its water resources. Retaining Israeli sovereignty over the Golan will be the basis for an arrangement with Syria.
10. The State of Israel will keep strengthening the Israel Defense Forces and other security forces to deter potential enemies, prevent war, and defend the state and its citizens.
11. The government will exercise its right to use the IDF and security forces to act against the threat of terrorism everywhere, to ensure the well being of the country's residents and the Jewish people.
12. The government will act to remove the threat to the northern border and will ensure economic development to residents of the North.
13. The government's privatization policy will take into account the essential nature of the defense industries to the country's security.
14. The government will promote Israel's foreign relations to enhance its security and peace, and to further the goal of economic and cultural growth.
15. The government will nurture its special, close relationship with the United States, on the basis of the commitment of both to the values of liberty, justice, democracy, and the commonality of their interests.
16. The government will act to strengthen relations with Russia and other CIS states, bearing in

mind Russia's status in the international community and the interests shared by Israel and these countries.

17. The government will continue efforts to have Israel added as an associate member of the European Union, and will act to strengthen its ties with Europe.
18. The government will strengthen its relations in all spheres with countries in East Asia, especially economic ties with the fast-developing market in the region.
19. The government will strive to develop relations with all countries desiring peace and will increase Israel's involvement in international organizations.
20. The government will initiate and cooperate in international efforts against terrorist organizations and those countries which shelter and aid such organizations.
21. The government will act with determination against any manifestation of antisemitism throughout the world, and will work to enhance the ties and mutual responsibility between Israel and Jewish communities in the Diaspora.

JERUSALEM

1. Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, is one city, whole and undivided, and will remain forever under Israel's sovereignty.
2. Freedom of worship and access to the holy places will be guaranteed to members of all faiths.
3. The government will thwart any attempt to undermine the unity of Jerusalem, and will prevent any action which is counter to Israel's exclusive sovereignty over the city.
4. The government of Israel, through its ministries and through the Jerusalem Municipality, will allocate special resources to speed up building, improve municipal services for Jewish, Arab, and other residents, and to reinforce the social and economic status of the Jerusalem metropolitan area.

RELIGION AND STATE

1. The government will act to bring the religious and secular closer through mutual understanding and respect. The government will retain the status quo on religious matters. Whenever it becomes clear that the status quo was violated, the government will look into steps to undo the change, including introducing legislation.
2. The Law of Conversion shall be changed so that conversions to Judaism in Israel will be recognized only if approved by the Chief Rabbinate.
3. The government will initiate research into the history of the Land of Israel and the Jewish People, including archeological excavation, while preserving the dignity of the dead.
4. The government will make prayer arrangements for Jews at holy sites in accordance to the guidelines of religious law.

IMMIGRATION AND ABSORPTION

1. Recognizing the shared fate and the joint struggle for the existence of the Jewish people, and to achieve the main goal of the State of Israel - the ingathering of the Jewish people in its homeland - the government will act with determination to increase immigration from all countries, rescue persecuted Jews, and create social and economic conditions for a speedy and successful integration of immigrants.
2. The government will put immigration and absorption at the top of its priorities in the belief that effective action on its part will turn Israel into a center which will draw immigrants from prosperous and deprived countries alike. The government will initiate a strategic, long-term program in tap the immigration potential from various countries, estimated at one million immigrants in the coming decade.
3. The government will work to bridge the gaps between new immigrants and veteran residents, and will create conditions to facilitate their smooth and successful integration into Israeli society. The government will work through information, education, and law enforcement to prevent calumny and slander against immigrant groups or individuals on the basis of their origin, and will deal with manifestations of discrimination or mistreatment of immigrants by the government bureaucracy.
4. The government will introduce legislation to ensure the rights of immigrants.
5. The government will work to bring to Israel Ethiopians who wish to immigrate and are eligible under law or government decisions.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES

1. To stem the continuous dangerous growth in the state budget deficit, the government will take steps to decrease the deficit, not by raising taxes, but by cutting expenditures, and strict budgetary policies. To increase revenue, the government will significantly

expand privatization, including the sale of land, while reducing the government's involvement in the economy.

2. The government will act to establish conditions which will provide economic stability, durable growth, the reduction of inflation, and continued structural reforms.
3. The government will halt the current policies which have created dangerous deficits in the balance of trade and the balance of payments, and will take all necessary steps to reduce them.
4. Israel's economy is small, and dependent on foreign trade. Its successful development is conditioned on specialization in sectors in which it has a relative advantage, and which allows it to produce and export high quality products and services at a competitive price. This requires exposure to world markets and the cancellation of limitations and tariffs to strengthen the economy's ability to compete.
5. The government will strengthen exposure and liberalization policies in the capital and financial markets, as well as in the labor market.
6. The government will fight inflation by reducing government expenditures, decreasing the state budget, establishing conditions for increasing productivity, and through appropriate monetary policies.
7. The government will implement privatization policies and will transfer its control in business enterprises - including statutory authorities and the banks - to the public and to the private sector.
8. The government will encourage competition in the economy with the goal of allowing consumers to purchase a variety of products and services at competitive prices set by the free market, rather than as a result of intervention by government or political party apparatuses.
9. To increase the economic growth, the government will act to create conditions for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.
10. The government will do its utmost to restore faith in the capital market, and will encourage increased savings.
11. The government will strengthen government structures and reduce the bureaucracy.

Social Welfare

1. Development of the economy and growth will facilitate the construction of a strong society, a fair distribution of the tax burden, the creation of new jobs, and an increase in aid to the disadvantaged. The government will act vigorously to reduce poverty through education, employment, and social renewal.
2. The government will work to create social justice and equal opportunity for all, while recognizing that every person has the right to dignity and quality of life. The government will strive to create a strong society in Israel, by maintaining balance encouraging private enterprise and government involvement.
3. The government will - as its first priority - put in place a comprehensive program to solve the housing problems of young couples and large families, to allow them to purchase apartments at reasonable prices. The government will also work to build rental apartments for young couples and large families in accordance with criteria set by the government.
4. The government will examine the disposition of Israel's health services and the way in which the National Health Insurance Law has been implemented, as well as its implications. The government will - through legislation - initiate changes and additions to improve health services.
5. The government will significantly promote social welfare and quality of life in development towns and increase efforts to rehabilitate distressed neighborhoods.
6. The government will improve the welfare of the individual, strive for full employment, and ensure basic living conditions for all citizens.
7. The government recognizes that priority should be given to senior citizens and recognizes its obligation to improve the quality of life for senior citizens in need in the areas of housing, nursing care, and the granting of benefits and relief in accordance to criteria to be determined.
8. The government will work to establish pension insurance on a stable actuarial base, which will facilitate pension payments at the level required to maintain a suitable standard of living.
9. The government will implement assistance programs for the handicapped with the goal of giving them suitable living conditions for their rehabilitation and integration into society.
10. The government will act to aid discharged soldiers in the spheres of higher education, employment, and housing.
11. The government will wage an uncompromising war against the plague of drugs as a national mission of the utmost importance and will allocate the resources necessary to this end.

The Fight Against Traffic Accidents

The human, social and economic damage of traffic accidents in Israel is relatively much greater than in other developed countries. Contributing to this are the human component, deficient infrastructures, the absence of complementary inter-urban and urban mass transit, deficient legislation, and partial enforcement of existing laws. The government will devote special attention to this issue, and will budget all the resources required to decrease the number of accidents.

Infrastructure

1. The government will initiate publicly and privately funded projects for investment in physical and human infrastructure in the spheres of transportation, energy and communications, education, and research and development, with the aim of creating the environment necessary for the Israeli economy to join those of the developed countries of the world.
2. The government will act for the gradual construction of an advanced, wide-band infrastructure between a number of focal points across the country, and will initiate a unification of computer communications networks, currently operated by commercial firms, universities, and public bodies, into one network. The national computer communications carrier will be connected to international sites on extensive and fast communications lines.
3. The government will develop government databases and encourage the establishment of private databases, which together will constitute a national information infrastructure, open to public use through computers.

The Environment

1. The government will raise environmental issues to the top of the national agenda, and act to enhance public consciousness regarding the preservation of the environment as an integral part of the struggle to preserve the country and out of a desire to build in it a healthy and prosperous society of values.
2. The government will give priority to preserving the country's natural resources: its water, air, soil, flora, and fauna. The government will initiate basic environmental legislation, in place of and in addition to current regulations.
3. The government will give high priority to waste recycling projects and to the establishment of waste water purification plants.
4. Government ministries will operate with strict adherence to a policy of preserving green areas as much as possible.

SETTLEMENT

1. Settlement in the Negev, the Galilee, the Golan Heights, the Jordan Valley, and in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza is of national importance to Israel's defense and an expression of Zionist fulfillment. The government will alter the settlement policy, act to consolidate and develop the settlement enterprise in these areas, and allocate the resources necessary for this.
2. The government will safeguard its vital water supplies from water sources on the Golan Heights and in Judea and Samaria.
3. The government will examine the difficulties facing private farms, moshavim, and kibbutzim and propose recovery plans that will allow them to exist as independent economic entities under free market conditions.
4. The government will uncompromisingly combat all attempts to impair the rights of all residents to exercise their full civil and economic rights, without forced migration - or dependence on - any union, movement, organization, or party.

STATUS OF WOMEN

1. The government will create the conditions for the full and equal integration of women into all areas of life, and will also work to ensure equal opportunities for both genders in the areas of employment and salary. The government will strive to improve the status of women, and to eradicate all forms of discrimination.
2. The government will increase aid in single-parent families in need.
3. The government will act to achieve genuine representation for women in all decision-making centers in the country.
4. The government will treat, with special gravity, all forms of violence against women and fight to uproot it. It will act to deepen public awareness of the severity of the problem, and allocate resources to education, information, and deterrent activities.
5. The government will assist women who have been harmed by violence, with the goal of restoring their physical and mental health, reviving their honor, and returning them to full functioning free from threats and fear of violence.

QUALITY OF GOVERNMENT

1. The government will act in accordance with the fundamental principles of democratic rule, and respect the status and decisions of



Zerah Warhaftig (left) and Meir Wilner, two surviving signers of the Scroll of Independence, look at the document, which was placed in the Knesset's Chagall Hall yesterday in a short ceremony. The scroll had been in the National Archives. The inauguration took place at the opening of the new Knesset. Among the guests of honor were President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and prime minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu.

the bodies supervising it: the Knesset, the courts, the state comptroller, and the attorney-general.

2. The government will preserve freedom of expression. It recognizes the importance of a fair and balanced media as part of the democratic system.
3. The government will uphold the law, act with integrity, demonstrate responsible management, and maintain strict efficiency and frugality. The allocation of resources, subsidies and grants from the State Treasury and holdings will be effected in accordance with reasonable and equal criteria, and will be accompanied by supervision over the activities of beneficiaries according to their commitments and the purposes of the allocation.

efforts will be made for the advancement of minorities which have joined their fate with that of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, and have served in the security forces.

2. The government will act to enlarge the budgets of local Arab authorities which require improved basic infrastructures, in an effort to reduce gaps between them and other communities.
3. Efforts will be made to absorb minority academics, particularly those who have completed military duties in the service of the state, in public institutions, in order to continue their participation in public and official responsibility for the state they served in the security services.

EDUCATION

1. The government views education as a central factor in shaping the character of the young generation. It offers momentum for closing gaps and for preventing polarization within society. Education will be grounded in the eternal values of the Jewish tradition, Zionist and Jewish consciousness, and universal values.
2. The Book of Books - the Bible - the Hebrew language, and the history of the Jewish people are the foundation stones of our national identity, and will take their rightful place in the education of the young generation.
3. The education establishment will put an emphasis on offering a general education that will pre-

MINORITIES

1. The government will act toward the full integration of minorities into every area. Special



Robert Beren looks on as Avraham Heller demonstrates his computer-operated gas appliance.

Boys Town's Beren Institute for Torah and Technology dedicated

FOUR years ago, at the age of 87, Israel Henry Beren came to Jerusalem for the first time in his life to dedicate the Boys Town Torah Center in memory of his late brother Harry. Yesterday, his nephew, Robert, returned the favor. He came to Jerusalem to dedicate the Israel Henry Beren Institute of Torah and Technology at Boys Town.

"The relationship our family has with Boys Town goes back more than 30 years," said Robert Beren, a Kansas-based oil producer and philanthropist. "This institute gives students knowledge in Torah and technology that can be applied to real-life problems."

At a dedication ceremony yesterday, Beren, who is in Jerusalem together with his daughters Nancy and Amy, his grandson Theodore, his sister Lela and her husband, Dr. Norman Jacoby, unveiled the plaque that marks the Israel Henry Beren Institute of Torah and Technology. The family also met with some of the students in the institute.

Avraham Heller demonstrated a computer that turns gas appliances on and off for use on Jewish holidays. Heller, 17, brings a strong foundation in Torah study to his knowledge in computers and technology.

"What makes Boys Town Jerusalem unique is that the technical training is integrated with Jewish and academic learning,"

GAVRIEL MEIR

explained Rabbi Moshe Linchner, rosh yeshiva of Boys Town.

Ash Bar Kochba, a Jerusalemite who is one of nine children, designed a monitor that detects when a baby has stopped breathing. His project could lead to a breakthrough in preventing crib death.

According to department head Naftali Goldberg, there are now 30 students in the Beren Institute receiving a curriculum that is known as Comprehensive Interdisciplinary Technology. In the ninth and tenth grades they are given a solid grounding in the basics: computers, electronics, mathematics, as well as Torah study and ethics.

By the 11th grade, they must come up with an idea for a project. Once it is approved, they are given all the materials needed to put it together, as well as a teacher to provide one-on-one guidance.

"The top students are admitted to this program," says Goldberg. "They must be motivated and possess intellectual curiosity and the ability to follow through. When they're finished, they write a paper and undergo tough questioning by Education Ministry supervisors."

Whether the students choose to pursue careers in science and technology or not, they gain self-confidence in the knowledge that they

can formulate an idea for solving a problem and follow through on it, says Goldberg.

The response of the Education Ministry to the program has been enthusiastic. "Boys Town Jerusalem is the pioneer in Israel, and perhaps the entire world in undertaking the teaching and implementation of an Interdisciplinary Comprehensive Technology curriculum," says Moshe Dekalo, of the Ministry of Education's Department of Technological Education.

The futuristic curriculum has also received rave reviews from international observers. Rodney Smith, senior manager with Arthur Andersen, visited Boys Town and remarked:

"Boys Town has earned a place on the world map of education. The interdisciplinary program should be viewed as a trend-setting example of the education that will be required for the children of the information age."

Beren wound up his visit at Boys Town by presenting diplomas to the 12th-grade graduates. "We are in Israel dedicating many projects and the strand that runs through all of them is the idea of Torah study and the ability to make a living," he said. "Scientific innovation must be accompanied by Torah study so that ethics and social principles are in harmony with scientific advance."

ARIELE BERKOWITZ/JANSKI



Russia's Communist presidential candidate, Gennady Zyuganov, takes off his jacket before getting into his car in central Moscow yesterday. (AP)

Russia faces election runoff; Yeltsin, Zyuganov go a-wooing

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin headed for a narrow first-round victory yesterday over his communist rival in the Russian election and the two men immediately sought to forge political deals to win the runoff.

With nearly 90 percent of the vote counted, Yeltsin led communist arch-rival Gennady Zyuganov by 34.80 percent to 32.31, setting the stage for a decisive second-round ballot in July.

While maverick ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy flopped, tough talking law-and-order general Alexander Lebed became overnight the man of the moment and kingmaker, taking a strong third place in an election which will decide the future of reform in Russia.

The key to the final outcome - which, on balance, appeared to favor Yeltsin - lay in where the one-third of voters who opted for Lebed or other eliminated candidates would transfer their allegiance in July.

Lebed took 14.38 percent of the vote, pushing liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky and Zhirinovskiy into fourth and fifth place respectively.

News agencies MOSCOW

divided electorate, which has shown remarkably consistent voting patterns in the past couple of turbulent years in Russian politics.

If they want a shot at the Kremlin throne, the Communists need to expand their support beyond die-hard elderly nostalgics - a goal they failed to achieve in the run up to Sunday's vote.

But their silence yesterday left in doubt whether they had a powerful plan to rein in other voters.

Yeltsin, meanwhile, needs a high turnout. His support lies with less loyal, mostly young voters.

He also renewed calls for a television debate with Yeltsin, who rejected previous such challenges.

Zyuganov moved quickly in search of common ground with Lebed, calling on him and another defeated candidate, eye surgeon Svyatoslav Fyodorov, to join forces with his "national-patriotic" bloc.

"Irrespective of our views and convictions... we are united by a single idea - there can be no peace, national accord, material prosperity and inner contentment without a strong Russia and a strong just state," he said in an appeal.

In a later comment to Ekho Moskvy, Zyuganov said any association with Yeltsin would badly backfire on Lebed.

Yeltsin, in a televised broadcast from the grounds of his country residence yesterday, told his people they had a "crystal-clear" choice in the runoff.

Hillary Clinton faces Whitewater accusers

WASHINGTON (AP) - Facing Republican accusers yesterday for the first time, Hillary Rodham Clinton wrote the Senate Whitewater Committee that she does not know how billing records came to be removed from her law firm or how they showed up two years later in the White House.

"I do not know how the billing records came to be identified by (White House aide) Mrs. (Carolyn) Huber at the White House on Jan. 4, 1996, although I have read various media accounts," Mrs. Clinton wrote in a terse two-page affidavit.

The first lady said she had seen the billing records in 1985-86 and "might have been shown billing records in 1992," when she wrote a memo for her husband's presidential campaign addressing the first reports of what developed into the Whitewater controversy.

Her affidavit does not address whether she ever saw the controversial billing records after that time, when they were subpoenaed by investigators and were not turned over for two years.

the center of the Whitewater investigation. The affair centered on a failed land development in Arkansas in which the Clintons participated while he was governor of that state in the 1980s.

Republicans have repeatedly stated that someone at the White House obstructed investigators by withholding the billing records.

Meanwhile, the White House dismissed an innuendo a Republican draft report on Whitewater that accuses Clinton administration officials of impeding criminal investigations to protect the president and first lady.

Administration officials "repeatedly attempted to hinder, impede and control investigations of Whitewater and related matters," said the broadly worded attack by the Republican majority on the Senate Whitewater Committee.

The report is scheduled for release today, but portions of a draft version were leaked to news organizations over the weekend by congressional sources.

swers, her private attorney called the decision by the committee's Republicans to leak their findings before the answers were ready as "nothing but a partisan publicity gimmick."

"It is a last-minute hit-and-run smear unworthy of a congressional committee engaged in a serious search for the truth," attorney David Kendall wrote.

The Republican allegations also drew a swift rebuttal from White House officials, who said the conclusions are not supported by the facts and are the product of election-year politics.

"There doesn't seem to be anything new except continuing innuendo from Republicans who are looking to make headlines and coming you into writing about it," White House press secretary Mike McCurry told reporters yesterday.

White House Committee Chairman Alfonse D'Amato "began most of his hearings by hurling innuendo," said White House spokesman Mark Fahiani. "He then called witnesses who never seemed to back up what he said. Now he's written a report that hurls the same innuendo, the facts be damned."

US Supreme Court says raped women can sue Bosnian Serb leader

News agencies WASHINGTON

THE US Supreme Court allowed women raped and tortured in the former Yugoslavia to sue Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in the United States for crimes against humanity.

The court, without comment, turned down Karadzic's argument that he cannot be sued because he is a private citizen, not a state official, and none of the alleged offenses occurred in the US.

The two class-action lawsuits against Karadzic were filed by human rights groups in 1993 on behalf of thousands of Bosnian Muslim and Croatian women. He is accused of ordering a campaign of murder, rape and torture to destroy non-Serbian people.

The case is under a 200-year-old US law allowing foreign citizens to sue foreign officials and citizens for violating the law of nations.

because he was a private citizen.

But an appeals court revived the women's claims last October.

"The liability of private individuals for committing war crimes has been recognized since World War I and was confirmed at Nuremberg after World War II," the appeals court ruled.

In the appeal acted yesterday, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark argued on Karadzic's behalf that individuals' actions, not taken on behalf of a government, do not violate the law of nations.

None of those involved in the case lived in the United States and the alleged actions did not occur here, Clark noted. He said Karadzic was not properly served with court papers in 1993 because he was in the country on a special visa to attend talks at the United Nations.

nian Serb accused of murder and torture, saying it was a case of mistaken identity.

It's the first time the tribunal has withdrawn charges against any of the 58 people it has indicted in the former Yugoslavia.

Goran Lajic, 28, was ordered freed immediately.

Lajic was accused of being on the staff of the Keraterm camp, which housed thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Croats in a former ceramics factory in northwest Bosnia in 1992.

Lajic was arrested in Germany and indicted last July for allegedly killing at least five detainees at the camp and torturing others. He pleaded innocent to all charges and told the tribunal it had arrested the wrong Gora Lajic.

EU summit to be faced with 'mad cow' war

ROME (Reuters) - European Union foreign ministers made little progress on ending Britain's "beef war" with its partners yesterday, almost guaranteeing the issue will be left to an EU summit at the end of the week.

Following a meeting called to set the agenda for the summit to be held on Friday and Saturday in Florence, British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said it was now "more likely" that an agreement would come at the summit than before it.

"I don't feel any more or less optimistic," Rifkind told reporters after talks with his colleagues on their worldwide ban on British beef exports. "Inevitably, as one approaches the moment of truth, one is cautious," he said.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said it was "not at all clear" that an agreement could be reached at Florence but that there was movement towards it. "I don't see a solution yet, but there is a small light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

Fears that mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), may cause a brain-wasting human equivalent prompted an EU ban on British beef exports in March and have triggered a Europe-wide crisis of confidence in eating beef.

Britain has infuriated its partners by refusing to cooperate in EU business until it is given a framework for ending the ban.

unless it got what it wanted. "I think there was encouraging willingness at a political level based on the basis that if there is not an agreement on Friday the crisis continues," he said.

That would lead to constant headlines about beef, making it even harder to raise consumers' confidence, he said.

A framework proposed by Britain - setting out five steps for lifting the ban, tied to eradicating BSE and without a specific timetable - is being discussed by EU officials and has been circulated among EU states.

1996, and of meat from animals under 30 months old.

The framework, which will be discussed by the Commission today in the French city of Strasbourg, is dependent on acceptance by the EU of a British plan to eradicate BSE.

France, which to date has been one of Britain's chief allies in its battle against the ban, indicated that it wanted more from London.

(Continued from Page 1) ed in areas in which Jewish graves are found.

"This is the only country in the world that does not recognize our conversions," Rabbi Philip Spectre, executive director of the Masorti (Conservative) Movement in Israel, said in response. "I hope Israel is a place where freedom of religion is practiced, but we are discriminated against."

"If they are going to try to roll back the decisions of the High Court, this is deleterious to the present government, but also to the State of Israel and the good name of Judaism. Our people in the Diaspora are up in arms," he said there would be similar

anger if the non-Orthodox are kept off local religious councils.

Rabbi Joel Meyers, executive vice president of the US-based Rabbinical Assembly, the Conservative movement's rabbinical arm, said, "I think we will press very hard for Israel to have the same tolerance as our communities abroad. We perceive this question of Conservative conversions not as a religious issue, but as a political one. We will continue to apply pressure in every way possible to have that law changed."

Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, executive director of ARZA, the

American Reform Movement's Zionist organization, has gathered petitions bearing thousands of signatures from Reform Jews in the US.

Some Reform and Conservative Jews protested outside of the Knesset yesterday, alongside civil rights groups. (Story, Page 2)

It should be noted that the changes would not impact upon those converted abroad. The government guidelines read: "The law of conversion shall be changed so that conversions to Judaism in Israel will be recognized only if authorized by the Chief Rabbinate."

Should in fact those converted abroad be effected, it would revive the entire "Who is a Jew" issue. Meyers said that at that point, the protest would turn into a firestorm and would "have a disastrous effect upon the relationship between the Diaspora Jewish community and Israel as a whole."

The new government guidelines also contain a general call for adherence to the "status quo on religious matters," without going into specifics. The religious parties wanted an adherence to the status quo of 1992, but the guidelines fall short of issuing such a commitment.

mented in his ministry. YB also won promises that a "respectable and appropriate" burial solution for non-Jews and those who prefer non-religious burial ceremonies will be found; a study program for would-be converts will be set up; more rabbinical courts will be set up to deal with conversion applications; and the Chief Rabbinate will look into ways of helping with marriages for immigrants from mixed families.

(Continued from Page 1) The rookie politicians of YB proved the best bargainers of all, keeping the Likud bopping until the last moment. The seven-member faction won two portfolios - Natan Sharansky will be industry and trade minister and Yuli Edelstein absorption minister - and lots of other perks.

The Absorption Ministry will be padded by the vocational training division of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry and the

Education Ministry's social absorption unit. It will also get a NIS 600 million budget for 100 new hostels for immigrants with pressing needs, especially single-parent families.

In addition, YB will get the chairmanship of the Knesset Environment Committee and the Committee on the Status of Women. Finally, two of its activ-

ists will be appointed as ambassadors to CIS countries.

The coalition agreement with YB also lists a series of administrative measures which will be taken to lower the cost of housing for immigrants and young couples. The new party, which made its Knesset debut yesterday, was promised that whoever holds the Housing portfolio will see to it that YB's priorities are imple-

Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina: There's conspiracy to keep me from power

DHAKA (Reuters) - Sheikh Hasina, whose Awami League has emerged as the biggest party in still-incomplete results from Bangladesh's general election, said yesterday there is a conspiracy to keep her from power.

"A conspiracy is going on against the Awami League. The president is involved in it," Hasina told journalists at her residence.

Hasina said she had spoken to President Abdur Rahman Biswas by telephone yesterday and asked him why he had delayed inviting her to form a government as leader of the biggest party.

"He gave excuses... asked me to wait," Hasina said. Lawyers for jailed former president Hossain Mohammad Ershad said, meanwhile, that he had rejected an offer by the caretaker government to grant him a 15-day parole following his Jatya Party's harvest of 29 seats in the elections.

Search resumes off Liberia for refugee ship

ABIDJAN (Reuters) - International teams resumed a search from the air yesterday for a Russian ship missing in the Atlantic with 450 West African refugees.

The Zolotisa has been in limbo for the past three weeks with no port in West Africa willing to admit the refugees from Liberia's civil war. It was last resupplied nearly two weeks ago and has not been heard from since.

Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF - Doctors Without Borders) said it was using a slightly larger plane after bad weather grounded a smaller one.

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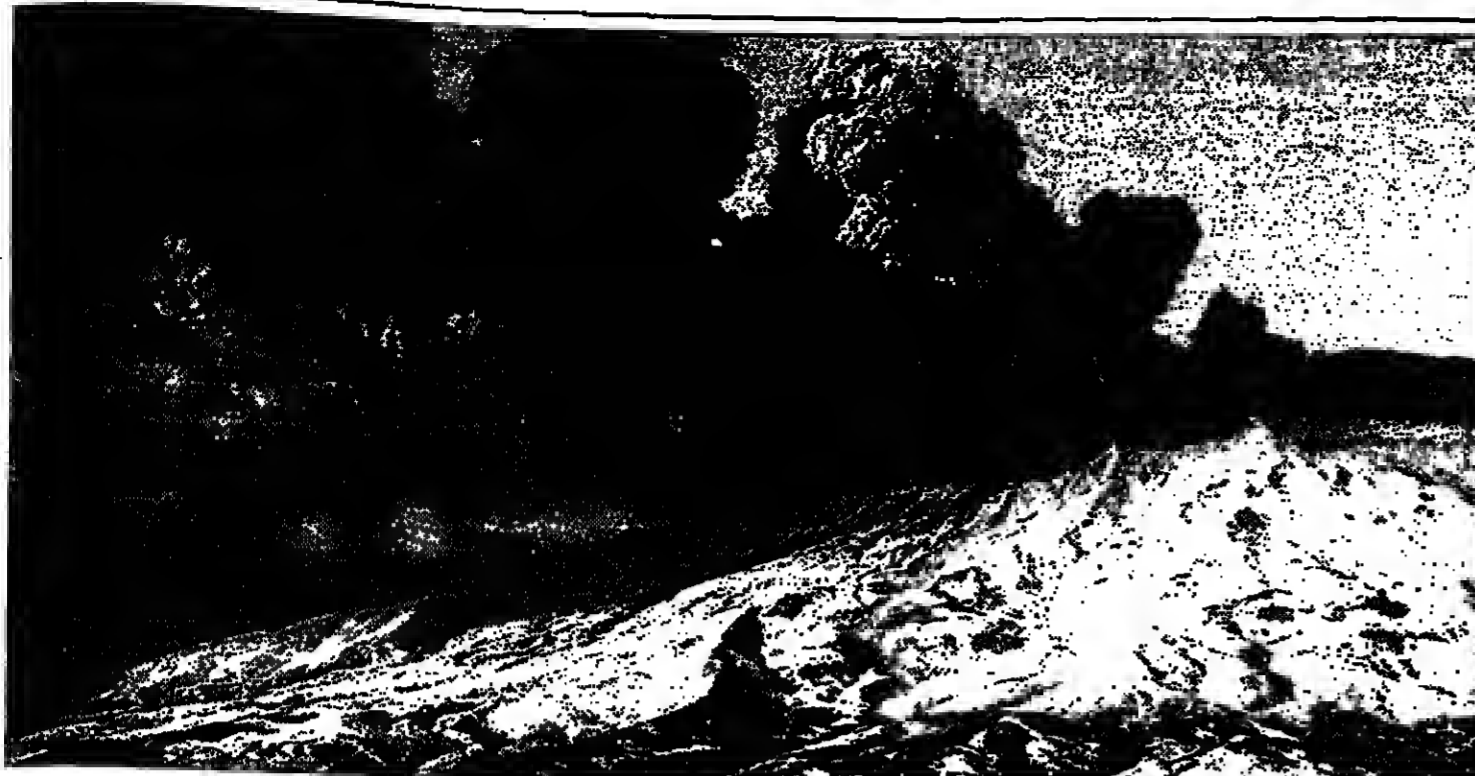
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Mount Ruapehu sends up plumes of ash and rock yesterday as the volcano erupted after months of silence. (Reuters)

NZ volcano goes ballistic

AUCKLAND (Reuters) - New Zealand's Mount Ruapehu belched steam and ash several kilometers into the atmosphere yesterday in a major eruption, but officials said the volcano's latest outburst did not present any hazard to people.

The eruption, the biggest since last October, closed roads, ski slopes and forced aviation authorities to declare a danger zone surrounding the mountain.

Officials said the eruption lacked the ferocity of last October's eruption.

"Airports are shut down, ash is on the roads, people's water supplies might have to be disconnected, but it's not life-threatening," Peter Wood, scientist at the

Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, told Radio New Zealand.

Scientists upgraded the alert status of the volcano to level three, meaning "significant local eruption in progress." At the height of last year's eruption, Ruapehu was classified at level four or "hazardous local eruption."

The highest alert is level five, signifying a hazardous local eruption is in progress.

Airlines suspended flights to and from the popular North Island tourist resort of Rotorua, where the touring Scottish rugby union side called off a practice session because ash was irritating players' eyes.

Falling ash closed several air-

ports, the furthest being Whakatane, some 185 km. to the north. The Civil Aviation Authority imposed a danger zone prohibiting flying in darkness around Ruapehu.

Residents of the town of Tarangi had been told to stay indoors, and to wear masks or damp cloths over their faces to avoid inhaling ash if venturing outside.

Television pictures showed dense black clouds over the mountain, which last burst into life in September and October last year.

Locals were concerned about the impact on ski resort operators. Staff were evacuated from the Turoa and Whakapapa ski

fields and some local roads were also closed.

Volcanic tremors began early yesterday morning, accompanied by numerous small earthquakes.

Scientists who flew around the volcano saw ash erupting from three vents, rising to form a massive, five km. plume near the volcano, and higher still as the plume was blown downwind to the north.

"It is throwing up the most amazing clouds tinged with red, yellow and orange from the sunrise," assistant manager Kerryanne McKioly of the Grand Chateau Hotel, which lies at the foot of the mountain, told the New Zealand Press Association.

US, China reach copyright agreement

US and Chinese officials have averted a multi-billion dollar trade war with an agreement to crush copyright theft and were putting the finishing touches to a joint report, a source close to the talks said yesterday.

The Chinese agreed to comply with US demands to clamp down on more factories accused of counterfeiting films, music and computer software and had also made progress in opening their markets to US manufacturers, the source said.

"They've done a very good job," said a US industry source close to the talks.

Acting US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky was due to meet Chinese President and Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin yesterday to seal the prevention of billions of dollars in trade sanctions between the two Pacific giants, he said.

A major breakthrough was China's offer to close more pirate plants along with details of its decision this year to deploy police instead of administrators to tackle the copyright thieves who churn out millions of fake discs each year, he said.

"This is the best we could have expected and when you look at

VELISARIOS KATTOULAS
BEIJING

the clock in China it's about right," the source said.

"They finally hit upon the right formula by getting the police involved," he said. "They realized ... it is serious when there is counterfeiting and the only way to deal with it is through the police."

Negotiations to avert 100 percent tariffs to be imposed by Washington on \$2 billion worth of Chinese textiles and electronics from yesterday were still under way. China has vowed to retaliate with similar punitive sanctions.

US officials said the two sides were still locked in negotiations on a document at China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation.

"We are still negotiating but we are guardedly optimistic," said one US official who declined to be identified. "There are positive signs."

Barshefsky had earlier met Chinese Vice-Premier Li Lanqing in a sign the US side may be ready to accept Chinese commitments to tackle piracy of films, compact discs and computer software, which US firms say costs them

\$2.3b. a year in lost sales.

"The talks were productive," said Barshefsky, who arrived in China on Friday for last-ditch talks to avoid a trade war.

Chinese officials said talks were "positive and constructive."

The United States had wanted China to take "decisive" action to comply with a 1995 accord on prevention of copyright piracy, reached after a similar display of brinkmanship and after a similar deadline for sanctions had expired.

Barshefsky was to join talks at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation for an exchange of diplomatic notes, sources said. No new agreement would be signed.

US officials have said they want to see a dozen pirate plants closed, full police enforcement of laws to halt copyright theft and better border controls to prevent exports of pirated goods. The US also wanted China's markets opened to more legitimate products.

Beijing has trumpeted the success of a clampdown on pirates in the past few days. Authorities have sequestered pirated discs, revoked the business licenses of two compact disc plants, closed six illegal assembly lines and intercepted exports. (Reuters)

Major: Bomb won't end search for peace

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - British Prime Minister John Major yesterday condemned the suspected IRA bombing of Manchester as a "callous and barbaric crime" and said he would not be deflected from seeking peace in Northern Ireland.

In a message to the people of Manchester where more than 200 people were hurt on Saturday by a huge truck bomb, Major said his heart went out to those caught up in the blast.

"The terrorists must see that their guns and their bombs will not deflect a democratic society either from the belief it holds so dear or from the determined pursuit of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland," he said in a statement.

The bomb outside a major shopping center in this northern English city exploded only five days after the start of landmark peace talks on Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein had been barred from the talks because of the refusal of the IRA to reinstate a cease-fire.

Police said it was one of the largest bombs ever planted on the British mainland, containing one to 1.5 tonnes of explosive material. Eight of the victims were still in hospital yesterday, including a 42-year-old woman who needed more than 300 stitches to her face.

No group has yet claimed responsibility but the IRA has planted a number of bombs in London since breaking off a 17-month cease-fire in February.

The blast left Sinn Fein further away than ever from being admit-

ted to multi-party peace talks on Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams has expressed sympathy with the victims but avoided condemning the incident. He said all sides must "dig deep" for a lasting peace built on dialogue.

Britain indicated not even a truce by the Irish Republican Army would now automatically open the door to Sinn Fein.

"I think it will be very much more difficult for the IRA to convince the rest of the world that any cease-fire they might now propose would be permanent and genuine," British Home Secretary Michael Howard told BBC radio yesterday.

"You can't let off a bomb in Manchester on Saturday, declare a cease-fire on Sunday and expect to be admitted to peace talks on Monday," Howard said.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton called the bomb a "slap in the face" to people who had been trying to give Sinn Fein a chance and said his government would be reviewing its relationship with Sinn Fein.

The IRA, which has been fighting for 25 years to overturn British rule of Northern Ireland, ended its cease-fire in protest at what it saw as British intransigence in the peace process.

Manchester police said the van containing the bomb may have been bought only a few days ago. It had been spotted on Friday afternoon in the city of Peterborough, 160 km. southeast of Manchester.

Judge suspends Priebe trial

ROME (AP) - Suspicious raised by the prosecutor that a military court may be biased in favor of a former Nazi accused of war crimes led to suspension of the trial yesterday.

Judge Agostino Quistelli announced the trial has been halted until July 10 to give a military appeals court time to decide whether any of the three judges should be replaced.

Erich Priebe, 82, a former SS officer in Nazi-occupied Rome, has been standing trial for six weeks for his role in the massacre of 335 civilians on March 24, 1944. The killings were carried out in retaliation for a bombing by resistance fighters that killed 32 soldiers.

Military prosecutor Antonino Intelisciano told the court that a report had been filed with judicial authorities summing up suspicions that the three-judge panel was not impartial.

He did not elaborate in court, but the Rome daily *Il Messaggero* reported yesterday that one of the judges was overheard telling Priebe's lawyer that he should remind his client to relay wedding anniversary wishes to his wife.

A lawyer for some of the relatives of victims, Giancarlo Maniga, said he didn't really object to the reported anniversary reminder.

"It could have been a simple gesture of humanity, to which we are all entitled," Maniga said.

Albania's ruling Democrats win rerun

TIRANA (Reuters) - Albania's ruling Democrats have scored a sweeping victory in a partial rerun of a disputed general election, vote officials said yesterday.

Results from Sunday's high-turnout ballot confirmed their landslide win in the ex-communist state's third multi-party polls.

Most opposition parties, including the key Socialists, again abstained from the voting, called after a first round "plagued by accusations of irregularities and criticized by the West."

They demand a fresh election for most of the Balkan country's 115 parliamentary seats.

President Sali Berisha, whose conservative Democratic Party won a huge victory in the initial two-round poll, agreed to the partial re-run after widespread international criticism and allegations the ballot was manipulated.

The Central Election Committee (CEC), which organized the vote, said 68 percent of eligible voters cast their ballots on Sunday.

"From the preliminary data we have from Sunday's vote it appears the (ruling) Democratic Party has won," CEC chairman Edmir Kapidani told a news conference.

The preliminary results indicate Berisha's Democrats have clinched victory in the 17 constituencies where the election was re-run.

The government agreed to repeat the vote in constituencies where it had noted most irregularities to quell opposition claims the elections were fraudulent and to satisfy Western appeals for a partial re-run.

The Democratic Party won 101 out of 140 parliamentary seats in two rounds of voting on May 26 and June 2.

Some 115 seats were determined by direct voting in the constituencies. The Democrats are poised to secure another batch of seats when the remaining 25 are allocated proportionally according to party lists.

Most opposition parties, includ-

ing the key Socialists, boycotted Sunday's ballot, saying only a fresh election in most of the Balkan country's 115 constituencies could reverse what they claim was massive vote manipulation by the ruling party.

Western governments, including the United States, called for a partial re-run of the controversial poll, but it was not immediately clear whether they would be content with Sunday's limited repetition.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) issued a final report last week saying the elections had failed to meet Albania's own legal standards, but stopped short of calling for a new poll.

But OSCE member states are due to meet in Vienna this week to discuss the report and what may be harder-hitting recommendations, source close to the group told Reuters.

Opposition parties refuse to accept the outcome of the vote or take up the five seats they won.

They have staged protest rallies, a hunger strike and travelled to the European Parliament in hopes of forcing a fresh election, but their efforts have been fruitless. Calls on voters to boycott Sunday's re-run went largely unnoticed.

"About 68 percent of the people voted in the (17) constituencies, with the highest turnout of 83 percent in (the southern town of) Pegin and the lowest turnout of 40 percent in (the southern city of) Saranda," the CEC's Kapidani said. About 350,000 Albanians were eligible to cast their ballot in 600 polling stations across the mountainous country, Kapidani said only 18 percent of citizens who participated in the initial election stayed away on Sunday.

But voters had a limited spectrum of parties to choose from. Only the Democrats and a group of small right-wing parties, the centrist Social Democratic Union Party and the ethnic Greek Union for Human Rights Party took part in the repeat poll.

EU ministers, hopeful of beef deal, blast Britain

ROME (AP) - European Union foreign ministers held out hope yesterday for an end to the EU's beef crisis this week, but sharply criticized Britain's strog-arm tactics aimed at forcing a deal.

"One political signal is clear: none of the other members find Great Britain's procedure acceptable," Danish Foreign Minister Niels-Helveg Petersen told reporters during a meeting of EU foreign ministers.

Britain has threatened to paralyze a summit of European leaders starting Friday in Florence unless its EU partners agree by then - or at the summit's opening session - on a deal to gradually lift the ban.

Several ministers were upbeat about chances of reaching an accord based on a British proposal to relax the ban in five stages as London enforces new safeguards against mad cow disease over the coming months and years.

"Everyone is doing everything possible so that the European summit is not overshadowed by BSE," said German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, referring to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the formal name of the cattle disease.

Dutch Deputy Foreign Minister Michiel Patijn told reporters that only "technical work" was needed to turn the British proposal into a formal plan that could be put on the table for approval at the summit.

But many EU nations, led by Germany, remain wary of the plan because of doubts that Britain is doing enough to wipe out mad cow disease and restore consumer trust in beef.

Britain is under pressure to expand plans to slaughter tens of thousands of cattle judged at high risk for the disease.

Some ministers acknowledged that Britain's task may be even harder because of fury in France over reports that Britain knowingly exported possibly tainted ani-

mal feed from 1989-1991, when London banned such feed domestically.

"This has been seen as a scandal in the other European countries," said Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos.

Still, the EU's executive agency aims tomorrow at a meeting in Strasbourg, France, to turn the British plan into a formal proposal for the summit.

The British plan includes no dates for relaxing the ban, and officials acknowledge it could take years before conditions are in place for lifting the embargo on some beef products.

The plan would lift the ban first on exports to nations that are not part of the European Union. That would be followed by steps to allow exports of cattle embryos, beef from very young cattle, beef from herds certified as healthy, and finally meat from most other cattle.

Britain has made agreement on such a blueprint the central demand in its pressure campaign against its EU partners. London has blocked more than 70 EU decisions in the last month.

Now it threatens to continue its obstruction at the EU's mid-year summit - a high-profile event scheduled to focus on crucial matters like cutting unemployment, introducing a common European currency and paving the way for admitting countries from Eastern Europe.

The beef crisis has taken over the European Union's agenda since late March, when scientists said there was probably a link between the cattle disease and an equally deadly human malady, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

As beef demand and prices plunged, European nations imposed the trade ban March 27 to prevent their own beef markets from disintegrating.

Jagger may send son to Eton

LONDON (Reuters) - Rolling Stone Mick Jagger, the wild man of British rock music in the 1960s, is considering sending his son to Eton, one of Britain's most exclusive private schools.

The *Daily Telegraph* reported yesterday that Jagger and his American model wife Jerry Hall visited the school last week. Its famed pupils include future king Prince William, son of heir to the throne Prince Charles and his estranged wife Princess Diana.

Jagger's son James is 11 years old and has been educated by private tutors on the Caribbean island of Mustique, where the couple have a home. If accepted, he could start at Eton in September 1997.

Eton declined to comment on the possibility of Jagger's son gaining a place at the school.

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First round in Russia

ALTHOUGH the first-round presidential elections in Russia have not yet produced a final outcome, they have produced a picture of mundane stability which is as welcome as it is surprising.

There were of course some valid criticisms - such as the inordinate use of state power, money and influence to the advantage of the incumbent President Boris Yeltsin's campaign.

The sight of Communist candidate Gennady Zyuganov being a front-runner - with a democratically respectable 32 percent of the vote rather than an old-style 99.9 percent - and entering at once into acceptable horse trading for minority allies, makes electoral communism something less of a bogeyman than Soviet red communism.

New system at work

TWO factors were most responsible for turning the public off the old election system: the endless horse trading which invariably accompanied the forming of a ruling coalition; and the indecisiveness which bedeviled governments constantly in fear of losing their majority in the Knesset.

The new system, partly because its original blueprint was substantially modified before it could pass the Knesset, has failed to live up to its billing. It may have made future governments somewhat more stable.

But the direct election of the premier seems to have done little to alleviate the horse-trading problem. Since the new prime minister needs the approval of a Knesset majority to have his government installed, he must make agreements with parties which together can give him such a majority before he can form his government.

This is precisely what the direct election was supposed to prevent. A unique experiment, which combines the American presidential system with the traditional parliamentary method, it was intended to give the elected premier an authority similar to that of an American president in choosing his cabinet.

accept them in the political and economic world at large, if he wins next time.

But considerable credit remains due to Yeltsin for a remarkable political comeback from illness, military disaster in Chechnya and vast unpopularity only six months ago.

The most satisfying aspect of the election was the near collapse of the Vladimir Zhirinovskiy handwagon. Most observers have been fearing for a few years that the extremist nationalists might become an awkward "20 percent" fixture on the political scene, like those of Jean-Marie Le Pen in France.

Lebed in particular is an excellent third-place candidate, with 10 million votes up for grabs by either Yeltsin or Zyuganov. He is critical both of Yeltsin's excesses and communist nostalgia for the past, and will provide a welcome and pragmatic brake on whichever of them he advises his supporters to vote for.

Letters to the Editor

HEBRON IS THE KEY

Sir, - The single overriding issue in this election was whether there could be a PLO/Hamas ("Palestinian") state on the "West Bank".

The future of settlements, security, utilization of resources, "right of return," as well as "the peace process" itself depend on the answer to that question.

There can be no PLO state without Hebron and some control in Jerusalem itself. That is why Hebron, with so few Jews and so many Arabs, is critical.

Unlike other Arab towns from which the IDF has withdrawn, Hebron has deep Jewish roots, preceding even those in Jerusalem.

DR. MOSHE DANN Jerusalem.

POLITICS OF HATE

Sir, - I respect the decision Israeli voters made; however, I feel compelled to express my disappointment with the results.

The recent election was about more than the different approaches to peace. The issues were overcast by the shadow of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

MARTIN MARKLE Toronto, Canada.

BASELESS CLAIM

Sir, - Esther Wachsmann's up-ed piece of June 7, "About rearranging priorities," erroneously claims that the Ministry of Education "called for changing our national anthem and removing the words Judaism and Zionism."

For the record, the Ministry of Education has never called for the changing of the national anthem.

In her article, Mrs. Wachsmann also refers to the Ministry of Education's decision concerning the criteria for budgeting Arab youth movements.

In answer to a query of the Ministry of Justice and within the framework of the general activities for equality in Israeli society, the ministry has decided to formulate an additional and special criterion that will allow the provision of support in Arab youth movements that are loyal to the State of Israel.

As Minister Rubinstein clarified, whoever differs with this should once and for all accept the idea that the State of Israel is compromised of different communities and sectors, and they all have the right to receive support from government ministries.

YEHOSSUA AMISHAV, Spokesman, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport Jerusalem.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Sir, - I was deeply dismayed and hurt to learn that a convicted assassin, Yigal Amir, voted twice - once with his gun and once in prison.

The media pointed out that the elections were likely to be decided by absentee ballots.

DR. ORIT TAMIR Tempe, Arizona.



Everyman's premier

WHEN Binyamin Netanyahu told Israelis in his victory speech that "I intend to be prime minister to you all, without exception," his effort to bridge divisions in Israeli society sent an important message to American Jews also.

Whether it has been Likud or Labor in power, the ideological debates among American Jews have mirrored those in the Jewish state for the last few decades.

The very definition of what it means to be "pro-Israel" has been open to question, to the point where a vociferous minority of American Jews openly lobbied against the policies espoused by the democratically-elected Peres government.

Will a Likud-led government cause a similar reaction among those of us who have endorsed the principles of the peace process thus far? I hope not.

A few years ago, when some of Israel's leaders asked my colleagues and myself to help build support in the US for Israel's peace policies, we agreed because we understood that a careful, gradual, negotiated separation of Israelis and Palestinians was the only realistic way to achieve peace, security and a Jewish majority in Israel.

That is no less true today, and I believe we have a responsibility to continue speaking out in support of a peace process based on this principle.

Indeed, there are signs that Netanyahu will do just that, and try to build upon the progress made by the Peres government toward peace.

ERIC LEE

An opposition handbook

THE opposition must make every possible effort to topple the Netanyahu government as soon as possible.

Finally, the left should use its unique asset - control of most of the trade union movement - to combat what will almost certainly be an extreme rightist economic policy resulting in anti-labor policies and increasing unemployment.

Both the old Labor Party leadership of the Histadrut and the Ramon-Meretz bloc which replaced it have done their best to destroy what was

THE opposition must wage a relentless struggle in the Knesset, bringing on a constant barrage of no-confidence motions as frequently as possible.

The first opportunity may well come when Netanyahu refuses to pull the IDF out of Hebron.

Is it wrong constantly to disrupt Knesset activity? Not at all. It's exactly what the Likud Knesset faction did during its four years in opposition.

The left should use extraparliamentary movements like Peace Now to mobilize widespread public opposition to what will certainly be Likud efforts to end the peace process.

The extraparliamentary right ruled the streets until one of its members murdered prime minister Rabin. It is time, even now, for the opposition to take to the streets.

JACK BENDHEIM

With Netanyahu's election, the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, Netanyahu has shown a distinct possibility that his ideologically-charged campaign rhetoric will take a back seat to pragmatism.

Netanyahu might manage to bring Israeli and American Jews together in a newly-forged consensus

Contra to the conventional wisdom that the election results were a mandate against the Oslo agreements, poll data show that most Israeli Jews - including many of those who voted for Netanyahu - want to continue the process that began with Camp David, was expanded at Madrid, and brought to a whole new level of reality by the Rabin-Peres government.

While Netanyahu promised a different approach to personal security, he also vowed to move forward with the peace process, and presumably he will feel compelled to deliver on both counts.

Like their Israeli cousins, American Jews will also back a continuation of the peace process; surveys have consistently shown overwhelming support for the principles underlying the current negotiations.

The writer is president of the New York-based Israel Policy Forum, an American Jewish leadership group dedicated to Israel's pursuit of peace.

How to bring down the Netanyahu government and keep it out of power

once a great social movement. But maybe there's still enough left of the trade unions to help bring down the anti-Labor Netanyahu government.

THESE may all topple the Likud. But to ensure against its victory next elections, the opposition must do four things (again learning from the Likud):

It must retire Shimon Peres gracefully, and quickly. He must be replaced by a younger man. His successor isn't necessarily one of today's obvious choices.

The opposition must take the initiative on social issues. Poverty and unemployment will almost certainly increase under the new government.

interests and consequently, to the US-Israeli relationship.

ALL THIS, of course, does not mean there will be no problems. Much as Netanyahu may have tried to sound like a more "moderate" version of Peres during the campaign, he also made it clear that he differs from the Labor government in important areas.

And, perhaps more dangerously, he will have to satisfy the demands of those who befell elect him, some of whom are opposed to the peace process.

For that reason, those of us who have been supporters of the peace process - in Israel and the US - must recognize that we have a role to play as Netanyahu's policies are implemented.

My fervent hope is that Netanyahu will find a way to keep the hopes of Oslo alive and continue negotiations with credible Palestinian leaders, even if at a slower pace than the one Peres envisioned.

And, although he may offend a small group of Jewish extremists who are intent upon driving current Palestinian leaders away from the negotiating table, he might very well bring the rest of us together in a newly-forged consensus. Surely that would be the best way to achieve his admirable goal of healing the wounds that have driven Jews apart.

ERIC LEE

Terror on wheels

BRUCE P. ELMAN

ON April 30, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat presented her annual report to the Knesset Speaker. It slammed the government for its poor performance in combating the nation's biggest killer, road accidents.

The state comptroller said: "From the point of view of the number of deaths, road accidents exceed any enemy." She provided a litany of reasons why the number of accidents and toll of injured and dead on the roads is so high.

Last week newspapers reported that 20 people had died in traffic accidents the week before. Over just one weekend (in this country about 24 hours) three people were killed, 36 injured.

The new government must be systematic and serious about coming up with a comprehensive plan to reduce death and injury on Israel's highways. "Traffic terrorism" must evoke the same determined response as any other type of terror.

And the resources needed for the job must be forthcoming. These are the elements of a comprehensive scheme to combat the carnage (other nations have been using them for years): licensing, regulation, monitoring and enforcement - and the criminal law.

Israel, like other nations, licenses its drivers. There are specialty licenses for taxi drivers, bus, and truck operators.

The standards for granting licenses need to be very high, but the threshold for revoking them very low. In other words, licenses should be hard to get, but easy to lose.

Many provinces in Canada use a point system. Accumulate six demerit points and you usually have to take a safe driving refresher course. Ten demerit points (three or four traffic violations) loses you your license. It can take a long time before the driver is allowed on the road again.

Proper regulation can help avoid death and injury, and Israel needs much tougher regulations on trucks and buses. There are simply too many people violating the traffic laws, and the consequences are often disastrous.

But licensing and regulation in themselves are meaningless without serious monitoring and enforcement. In Canada random check stops have been very effective in lowering the prevalence of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Effective monitoring and enforcement of traffic laws

Treat road offenders like criminals. Sounds crude? A little crudity can go a long way

requires a dedication of financial and human resources - but if fewer people die and fewer crippling injuries are caused, isn't it worth it?

FINALLY there is the criminal law, which some would call a crude instrument for altering societal behavior.

This may be true; but in some instances - and this is one - a little crudity goes a long way. How so? Well, public education is all fine and good, but jail time really grabs one's attention.

In Canada, if you violate the driving laws and cause an accident in which someone dies, you will be charged with manslaughter and be liable to life imprisonment.

People have suggested that this is somewhat drastic since, after all "the driver didn't mean to cause those deaths." Of course he didn't. Had he meant it, he would be charged with murder.

The writer is a member of Kibbutz Ein Dor.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1996

Propper: I backed peace, not Peres

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MANUFACTURERS Association president Dan Propper yesterday denied he had supported Prime Minister Shimon Peres during the recent election campaign...

"I showed support for the peace process, not for Peres, and it is wrong to claim that I preferred him," said Propper...

US firm to build Gaza sewage system

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

A team of contractors from the Massachusetts-based consulting firm Metcalf and Eddy International is to arrive in Gaza City today to begin work on the second phase of the Gaza Stormwater and Wastewater project...

relationships" between the sewage infrastructure and illness, pointing to last year's cholera outbreak in Gaza City as the result of overflowing sewage and wastewater...

Bezeq's int'l subsidiary gets operating license

JUDY SIEGEL

IN her final official act as communications minister, Shulamit Aloni yesterday granted Bezeq International its operating license to provide overseas phone service for the next 25 years...

expanded, become more efficient, its prices have become reasonable and its services have improved.

Bezeq International, chaired by Moshe Haba, was established recently when Bezeq was required to forgo overseas dialing and hand that service to a subsidiary...

are "professional and well-trained staff coming from Bezeq itself."

Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul thanked Aloni for her three years in the ministry. The company welcomes competition, he said...

Bezeq is now becoming a consortium of subsidiaries, Kaul added. The sector's liberalization will not be complete until the company's privatization is speeded up...



Acting US trade representative Charlene Barshefsky (right) speaks to reporters with colleague Lee Sands (center) during talks with Chinese officials in the Chinese capital over copyright piracy...

Postal Authority shows profit

COMPANY RESULTS

DAVID HARRIS

THE Postal Authority ended the first quarter with net profits of NIS 4.4 million, a sharp turn around on the same period last year when it lost NIS 2.9m...

The figures are very positive," said authority spokeswoman Sigal Galil. The telecommunications terminal sales firm Bezeq-Bit reported a 300% increase in sales for the first quarter over the previous quarter...

Copper sags, then steadies in Hamanaka storm

LONDON (Reuters) - Copper prices stabilized yesterday with help from government regulators, defying predictions of a collapse in reaction to the scandal over Japanese star trader Yasuo Hamanaka's \$1.8 billion losses...

after probably the highest loss ever suffered in a financial market seemed premature. The benchmark London Metal Exchange (LME) three months delivery copper contract dropped early almost to \$1,800 per tonne from a close on Friday at \$1,980...

Moda'i: '96 inflation could reach 20% if new government will be slow to act

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE annual inflation rate might reach 20 percent this year if the new government does not take immediate measures to reduce it as part of a comprehensive economic program...

problems it is passing on. According to Moda'i, there are around a dozen corrections that would have to be implemented simultaneously to achieve the necessary results...

A new economic plan must also generate a capital-market recovery, including the currently slumping provident funds, and measures to accelerate foreign investment and improve the performance of the business sector...

Consequently, the new finance minister will have to take significant measures "which may be difficult for him, but not necessarily for the economy," he said.

Lord Young urges new gov't to speed up infrastructure projects

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel-British Business Council should urge the new government to proceed with currently stalled infrastructure projects, Lord Young, chairman of Young Associates, said at the end of a council meeting in Tel Aviv yesterday...

Among the activities discussed at the meeting was the establishment of a fund, similar to the BIRD Foundation, which will help facilitate research and development projects. The council also decided to enhance links between Britain and Israel with regard to a wide range of financial services...

Bezeq raises NIS 600m. from local banks

DAVID HARRIS

BEZEQ has succeeded in raising NIS 600 million from banks Discount, Hapoalim, and Mizrahi, and from the sale of non-trading bonds to institutional bodies, such as Bank Leumi's provident fund...

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Local company to produce CD for the ADA: Optimedia, a multimedia company, will produce a CD-ROM version of the American Dental Association's monthly journal, JADA, containing back issues from the past six years...

IAI buys Tadiran's electro-optic production line: Israel Aircraft Industry's Tamam division has bought Tadiran's electro-optic documentation production line for an undisclosed sum, executives announced yesterday...

The Tadiran production line includes documentation and mapping facilities for unmanned air reconnaissance vehicles and jets. Among the products are the Lairs and Night Lairs, which provide for night and day photography as well as the new Tadiran product, Moked-2000, which is meant for the US market...

Lockheed will sponsor Cairo economic summit: Lockheed Martin will be a sponsor of the Middle East economic summit to be held in Cairo in December, the company said yesterday...

EU to order VW to repay 240 million marks: The European Commission is expected to order German car maker Volkswagen today to repay 240 million marks in subsidies it received in excess for carrying out an investment in former East Germany...

Bezeq's Goldnet to offer access to Internet: Within a few days, Bezeq will offer Internet access to non-subscribers through its subsidiary, Goldnet...

Industrialists to receive NIS 70m. compensation for Grapes of Wrath: The total compensation to be paid to industrialists who suffered losses as a result of Operation Grapes of Wrath is likely to reach NIS 70 million, according to the Income Tax and Property Tax Commissioner Doron Levy...

Bezeq's Goldnet to offer access to Internet

JUDY SIEGEL

WITHIN a few days, Bezeq will offer Internet access to non-subscribers through its subsidiary, Goldnet. Outgoing Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni had barred the public telecommunications company from providing such a service itself...

Bezeq's eagerness to offer Internet access to individuals who do not subscribe to an Internet account aroused much opposition among Internet servers who feared the competition...

Goldnet is owned by Bezeq, AT&T, Binat and Malam. Users will be able to dial 135 on their computer modems and reach Bezeq/Goldnet's "multimedia kiosks." They can then access any address on the Internet, with the charge going to their phone bill...

Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul said that Bezeq would charge Goldnet the full cost of infrastructure for the service and not grant any favoritism or cross-subsidization.

Industrialists to receive NIS 70m. compensation for Grapes of Wrath

DAVID HARRIS

THE total compensation to be paid to industrialists who suffered losses as a result of Operation Grapes of Wrath is likely to reach NIS 70 million, according to the Income Tax and Property Tax Commissioner Doron Levy...

The reimbursements cover a variety of losses incurred, including salary payments, operating costs, and lack of profits. The commission reported NIS 40m has already been paid out. The sectors which are receiving compensation include: commerce and services, hotels and guest houses, and agriculture...

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS table containing exchange rates for various currencies and interest rates for different deposit terms.

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Handwritten note: אהרון לוי

Hogan helps Jones tame monster, win Open Matusевич shines at national meet

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI (Reuters) - Forty-five years after Ben Hogan tamed the "monster" that is Oakland Hills, he inspired Steve Jones to do the same.

Jones, like Hogan, came back from a serious injury to win the US Open at the famous course - and he credited his stirring victory to a book about Hogan.

"I don't think I could have won this tournament without that book," the 37-year-old Jones said after he won his first major championship on Sunday by one stroke over Tom Lehman and Davis Love - who also have had key roles in Jones' storied life.

"He really inspired me," Jones said of Hogan.

"I did just what Hogan did - focus on every shot and not worry about anything else," Jones said after he came from behind to win the sixth Open played at Oakland Hills, which Hogan called a "monster" after he won the 1951 Open here.

Jones also emulated Hogan, who was almost killed in a car accident in 1948, by returning to professional golf after almost three years sidelined by injuries

he suffered in a 1991 dirt bike accident.

"My accident wasn't anything like what Hogan went through," Jones admitted.

But he also acknowledged that for a while it looked like an injury to his left ring finger, which refused to heal, threatened to end his very promising golf career.

"I huffed a lot of doctors. No one could quite figure out what was wrong," Jones said of his lingering injury.

"It turned out it was a ligament. You can't do anything about it - just wait until it heals," he said.

While Jones was convalescing, Lehman, his good friend and neighbor in Phoenix, kept in close touch, encouraging him to keep his spirits up.

"I just tried to be a friend," Lehman, who played the final round of the Open with Jones, said of those dark times for his friend. "I told him I was praying for him and to just keep working."

Lehman, who had led Jones by one shot going into Sunday's finale, was still encouraging his friend on Sunday - even though they were battling head-to-head

for the championship.

Jones, a religious man like Lehman, said his friend gave him some words of inspiration on the first hole and at least once more during their round together.

"He said the Lord wants us to be courageous and strong," Jones said. "I was trying, but I was really, really nervous. I don't know how strong I was."

Jones who had won four tournaments on the PGA Tour before his injury, also got another kind of help from his friend at the most crucial point of the tournament - the final hole.

Jones faced a cutting, 14-foot downhill putt for birdie and Lehman had a slightly longer putt in the same line.

"I wasn't looking forward to that putt," Jones said, although he only needed to two-putt for victory.

"Tom gave me a real good read," Jones said, although he left the putt about a foot short.

"If it was an inch longer, I don't think it would have gone in," Jones said of the clincher, which left Lehman and Love one shot behind.

HEATHER CHAIT

NATIONAL high jumper Constantin Matusевич, who set a new Israeli record of 2.34 meters on Sunday in Milan, returned to Israel yesterday and beaded straight for the National Athletics Championships at Hadar Yosef.

In Milan, Matusевич, whose new record lifts his previous indoor height by three centimeters and his outdoor one by 5 cm, beat some leading high jumpers, including the world champion from Bahamas and his chances for Olympic honors certainly look brighter.

Last night, on the second and last day of the championships, Matusевич jumped 2.25m for first place with Itai Margalit notching up 2.20. Philip Feingold added the 400m title to his 400m hurdles glory on Sunday, winning in 48.86 while among the women, Katrin Manruu from Belgium was first with 54.95, followed by Orit

Kolodny with 55.91.

As in the 100m, Regilio van der Flot and Frank Peri from Holland took the first two places in the 200m with Tomi Kafri moving in next with his time of 21.85. Van der Flot's time was 21.45.

Ofir Shmueli from Hapoel Tel Aviv won the 110m men's hurdles in 14.84. The 100m women's hurdles title went to Anat Morad from Hapoel Petah Tikva who won in 14.72 and then proceeded to seize the 200m in 25.52.

Marina Shafraan won the women's triple jump with her 11.86 distance while Mark Melissov took the men's long jump in 7.25.

The first Israeli in the 1500m race was Yosef Gizatcho in third place with 3:48.23 behind the Dutch winner Jorgen Itzpeleer's time of 3:04.49.

Violira Ofrieger from Hapoel Givat Ram won the women's 1500 in 4:25.81.



FREQUENT FLYER - Constantin Matusевич leaps over the bar en route to a first place showing yesterday at the National Athletics Championships at Hadar Yosef. (Tom Ossenay/Israel Sun)

Lewis, Burrell fail to make US Olympic team

JOHN JEANSONNE
ATLANTA

EVERYTHING is fried in this town. Chicken. Fish. Potatoes. Okra. Chitlins. Even Carl Lewis. It's not the Atlanta weather that gets these otherwise flame-tested performers. It's the intense crucible of competition in the US Olympic Track & Field Trials that leaves only three athletes per event on the team.

The perfect example was Saturday night's men's 100-meter final, a scorched-earth happening if there ever was one. The race left both Lewis, who shut down his engines in the final 15 meters with a cramp in his right leg, and world record-holder Leroy Burrell, Lewis' Houston-based teammate, off the team. Lewis was dead last, almost walking, in 10.21, and Burrell sixth in 10.07.

Veteran Dennis Mitchell, 30, was the fry-er: His winning 9.92 is the fastest 100 meters in the world this year, on what the trials' competitors have been promising is a fast track. Second was Mike Marsh, another Lewis stalwart and the defending Olympic champion in the 200 meters, in 10.00. Third was 27-year-old Jon Drummond, the top American sprinter in 1995, in 10.01.

"It was fantastic, man," Mitchell announced. "I got out well, ran hard, started cramping at the end, said, 'Lord, take me to the finish.'"

"Canada," declared Jeff Williams, whose fourth-place 10.06 puts him on the Olympic relay team, "you've got a butt-whooping coming," a reference to the Canadians' victory over the Americans in last year's world championships.

Lewis' failure to make the team came as a shock, in light of his strong late-spring showing on the road and soaring confidence. He had insisted again, on the eve of the 10-day trials, that he expected to make the team in the 100, 200 and long jump, and that would get him up for a fourth event, the sprint relay. To any talk that he might be fooling himself, at 34, Lewis answered, "People say you're embarrassing your legacy, trying to make the team again; that you're taking your name down. If I worried about embarrassing my legacy, I'd be afraid to try to live up to it, because I know I couldn't."

Last-minute heroics give Essendon a win

MELBOURNE (AP) - Essendon forward Che Cockatoo-Collins kicked a point in the final minute Sunday to give his team a 13.12 (90) to 12.17 (89) win over Fremantle in an Australian Football League match.

Essendon took control in the first quarter and led by 20 points at the first change and by a goal at halftime. Fremantle fought back to lead by six points at the end of the third quarter.

In other matches on Sunday Melbourne beat Fitzroy 18.11 (119) to 8.8 (56) and the West Coast Eagles had an easy time defeating Collingwood 16.19 (115) to 9.8 (62).

On Saturday, Carlton rode to the top of the ladder with a strong defensive effort in downing Brisbane 9.8 (62) to 5.8 (38). Carlton kept the Bears goalless in sloppy conditions for 40 minutes during the first half and another stretch of 44 minutes during the second half.

Sydney thrashed league-leading North Melbourne by 79 points with 10 goals from full-forward Tony Lockett. The Swans hammered North Melbourne 24.8 (152) to 10.13 (73) to record their highest score against the Kangaroos.

Geelong champion Gary Ablett booted five goals to be only three shy of his 1,000th career goal in his side's 20.9 (129) to 12.13 (85) victory over Footscray at Kardinia Park.

Richmond saw off a spirited challenge by St. Kilda to win by 34 points. After a tight first half, the Tigers booted 10 goals to win 21.13 (139) to 15.15 (105).

Adelaide squandered a potentially match-winning break to lose by nine points to a determined Hawthorn at Waverley Park. The Hawks, inspired by nine goals from skipper Jason Dunstall, over-ran the Crows to win 16.12 (108) to 14.15 (99).

Results of Australian Football matches at the weekend:

Played Sunday:
West Coast 16.19 (115) Collingwood 9.8 (62)
Essendon 13.12 (90) Fremantle 12.17 (89)
Fitzroy 8.8 (56) Melbourne 18.11 (119)
Played Saturday:
Richmond 21.13 (139) St Kilda 15.15 (105)
Geelong 20.9 (129) Footscray 12.13 (85)
Hawthorn 16.12 (108) Adelaide 14.15 (99)
North Melbourne 10.13 (73) Sydney 24.8 (152)
Brisbane 5.8 (38) Carlton 9.8 (62)

England readies for Dutch

LONDON (Reuters) - Host England, buoyed by a rousing win over old rivals Scotland, meets the Netherlands today with a draw sufficient to take both into the last eight of Euro 96 but each side promising to aim for more.

The England side, beleaguered by domestic media criticism, confounded their detractors at Wembley on Saturday when they raised their game in a thrilling second half to defeat Scotland 2-0 and seize the lead in group A.

With Alan Shearer rediscovering his international scoring touch, Paul Gascoigne conjuring up a goal of rare genius and goalkeeper David Seaman producing a heroic piece of save in a commanding performance, England can take heart for bigger tasks ahead.

Victory was a release after recent tribulations and a dismal run in European championship final tournaments in which England had not won since defeating Spain in 1980. The extra spice of nailing neighbors Scotland added to the euphoria of the Wembley fans.

Life is indeed looking up after the disappointment of the opening 1-1 draw against unfancied Switzerland, but England coach Terry Venables remains wary.

"We are inclined to be a nation which thinks we are the worst team in the world or the best. Neither is true," he said.

"We've got to keep our feet on the ground and make sure we go into this next game the right way."

Former champions the Netherlands were held to a goalless draw by Scotland in their group A opener but moved within sight of a quarter-final place with a 2-0 win over Switzerland thanks to goals from Jordi Cruyff and Dennis Bergkamp.

The Dutch have some way to go to match the quality of Ruud Gullit's team which won this tournament in 1988.

They have their troubles, too, with volatile midfielder Edgar Davids sent home after criticising manager Guus Hiddink for dropping him from last Thursday's starting line-up against the Swiss.

However, a place in the last eight is theirs for the taking.

Both teams have four points

1996 European Championship First Round

Group	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Group A	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
England	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Netherlands	2	1	0	1	2	0	3
Switzerland	2	0	1	1	3	1	1
Scotland	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Group B	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Bulgaria	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
France	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Spain	2	0	1	1	2	2	2
Romania	2	0	1	1	2	2	2
Group C	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Czech Rep.	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Italy	2	0	1	1	3	3	3
Russia	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Group D	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Croatia	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Paraguay	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Denmark	2	0	1	1	4	4	1
Turkey	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Mel Allen, 'voice of the Yankees,' dies at 83

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP) - Mel Allen, whose lulling Alabama drawl became one of the great voices of baseball broadcasting, died Sunday at home. He was 83.

A family member, who asked not to be identified, confirmed the death, adding Allen had been ill for some time with an undisclosed condition. Allen had open heart surgery seven years ago.

Allen had planned to return to work on a baseball project next week. He had been working part-time recently doing commercials and narration for baseball anthologies.

"Mel Allen meant as much to Yankee tradition as legends like Ruth, Gehrig, DiMaggio and Mantle," team owner George Steinbrenner said. "He was the voice of the Yankees."

In his 58 years as a sports broadcaster, Allen did it all, from baseball's World Series and All-Star game, to college football.

He was best known, however, for applying his Alabama drawl to Yankee broadcasts and, for 17 years, as the voice of the weekly syndicated show, "This Week in Baseball."

"How about that?" Allen asked so often, and it became his signature phrase, three words repeated over and over for years by young Yankee fans from the Bronx to Bayonne and back.

As a youngster, Allen yearned to make the Hall of Fame as a player, but he was cut from the University of Alabama team.

"As a kid, I woke up every day for sports," Allen once said. "I wasn't good enough to win a baseball letter in the field at Alabama, so I got one by being student manager of the team."

And he eventually would earn his trip to Cooperstown as a Hall of Fame announcer, the only one ever to call baseball games in seven decades.

Originally, Allen intended to become a lawyer, not a broadcaster. He did get his law degree, but he never hung out his shingle.

Instead, he went to work in Birmingham, Ala., broadcasting football games. It was obvious Allen did it for love. His salary was just \$5 a game.

It wasn't long before his career took a turn for the better.

In 1936, he was in New York when CBS Radio called for an audition of announcers. A friend at CBS suggested he give it a try and, at age 23, he won out over 60 applicants.

Allen became a staff announcer in 1937 and worked his first major assignment the next year. In 1940, Allen became the Yankees' lead announcer and, except for a four-year tour in the Army, he did that job until 1964.

He returned to the Yankees in 1976 and continued with the team until joining "This Week in Baseball."

Allen always kept busy. He had a weekly network program of his

own, did newsreel broadcasts and covered the World Series and All-Star games. In 1952, he managed to work in a Rose Bowl assignment.

In all, Allen did 20 World Series, 24 All-Star games, 14 Rose Bowls, five Orange Bowls and two Sugar Bowls.

Although Allen's Yankees were in many of the World Series he covered, he insisted on playing it straight down the middle.

In fact, in the last game of the 1953 World Series, when the Dodgers' Carl Furillo hit a two-run homer in the ninth to tie it, Allen got so excited the Yankee Stadium switchboard buzzed with calls from irate fans. They thought their beloved Mel had jumped ship.

Yorkshire opens up 14-point lead in county championship

LONDON (Reuters) - Yorkshire opened a 14-point lead at the top of the county championship table yesterday with a comprehensive 10-wicket victory over holders Warwickshire at Headingley.

Yorkshire wrapped-up Warwickshire's final six wickets for 103 runs, with Darren Gough picking up two wickets to add to his maiden first class century made on Saturday.

Opener Martyn Moxon and Michael Vaughan were untroubled in scoring the required 28 runs to complete a 22-point win on the fourth day.

Keat, who started the latest round of matches a point behind Yorkshire, could manage only a draw against Middlesex at Canterbury.

Set 299 to win in a minimum of 56 overs, the home side were well poised at 143 for two, but three wickets by Phil Tufnell saw them slump to 164 for six. Mark Ealham (23 not out) and Martin McCague (24 not out) guided Keat to safety and the three extra runs for a draw.

Chris Lewis, who picked up only his third five-wicket haul in test matches against India at Edgbaston earlier this month, took three for 13 in 11 balls at The Oval as Surrey accounted for Leicestershire by 108 runs.

Lewis bagged his best figures for Surrey, five for 25, as the visitors, chasing 284 for victory off 56 overs, were skittled out for 175.

Off-spinner Robert Croft also enjoyed a good day, returning his best bowling figures of the season as Glamorgan claimed a 173-run victory over Somerset at Swansea.

Set to score 327 after Glamorgan declared 45 minutes before lunch, Somerset were bowled out for 153, with Croft taking six for 78 off 33.2 overs.

Worcestershire and Nottinghamshire are still looking to end a run of 12 championship matches without a win after their New Road encounter ended in a draw.

The game at Chelmsford also ended in a draw, with Essex, set

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MISCELLANEOUS

Tel Aviv

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Jerusalem

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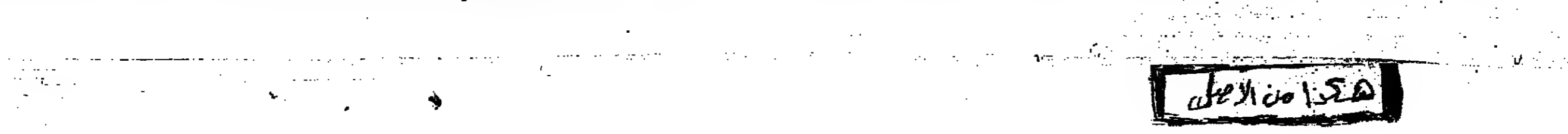
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Leicestershire	7	3	0	16	21
Nottinghamshire	6	3	2	12	22
Warwickshire	6	3	1	13	21
Derbyshire	6	3	1	12	21
Essex	6	2	1	3	22
Leicestershire	6	2	1	3	21
Surrey	6	2	1	11	17
Somerset	6	2	1	11	17
Surrey	6	2	1	13	24
Glamorgan	6	2	3	19	21
Gloucestershire	6	1	1	16	19
Gloucestershire	5	1	1	3	16
Nottinghamshire	5	1	1	15	15
Durham	5	0	1	5	17
Northants	5	0	3	16	26
Warwickshire	5	0	3	16	16
Warwickshire	5	0	3	8	16



6 killed in blast at Palestinian camp near Sidon

DAVID RUDGE

SIX people were killed and at least 15 others reported wounded in a massive bomb blast in the heart of the sprawling Ein el-Hilwch Palestinian refugee camp east of Sidon yesterday morning.

Reports from Lebanon said the explosion occurred in the home of a senior member of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah organization.

It was not known, however, whether the official, Col. Khatib, was among those killed in the blast, which also set off an ammunition dump in the same building and five gas bottles.

The reports from Lebanon said the blast destroyed two houses, including Khatib's, and badly damaged seven others. The cause of the explosion was not immediately known and efforts were still being made last night to identify the bodies.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah's fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, has given its version of the ambush last Monday in which five Nahal soldiers were killed and eight others wounded. At least one of the attackers was killed in the clash.

The Lebanese daily *A-Safir* carried a report which maintained that the ambush had been carefully planned after weeks of reconnaissance.

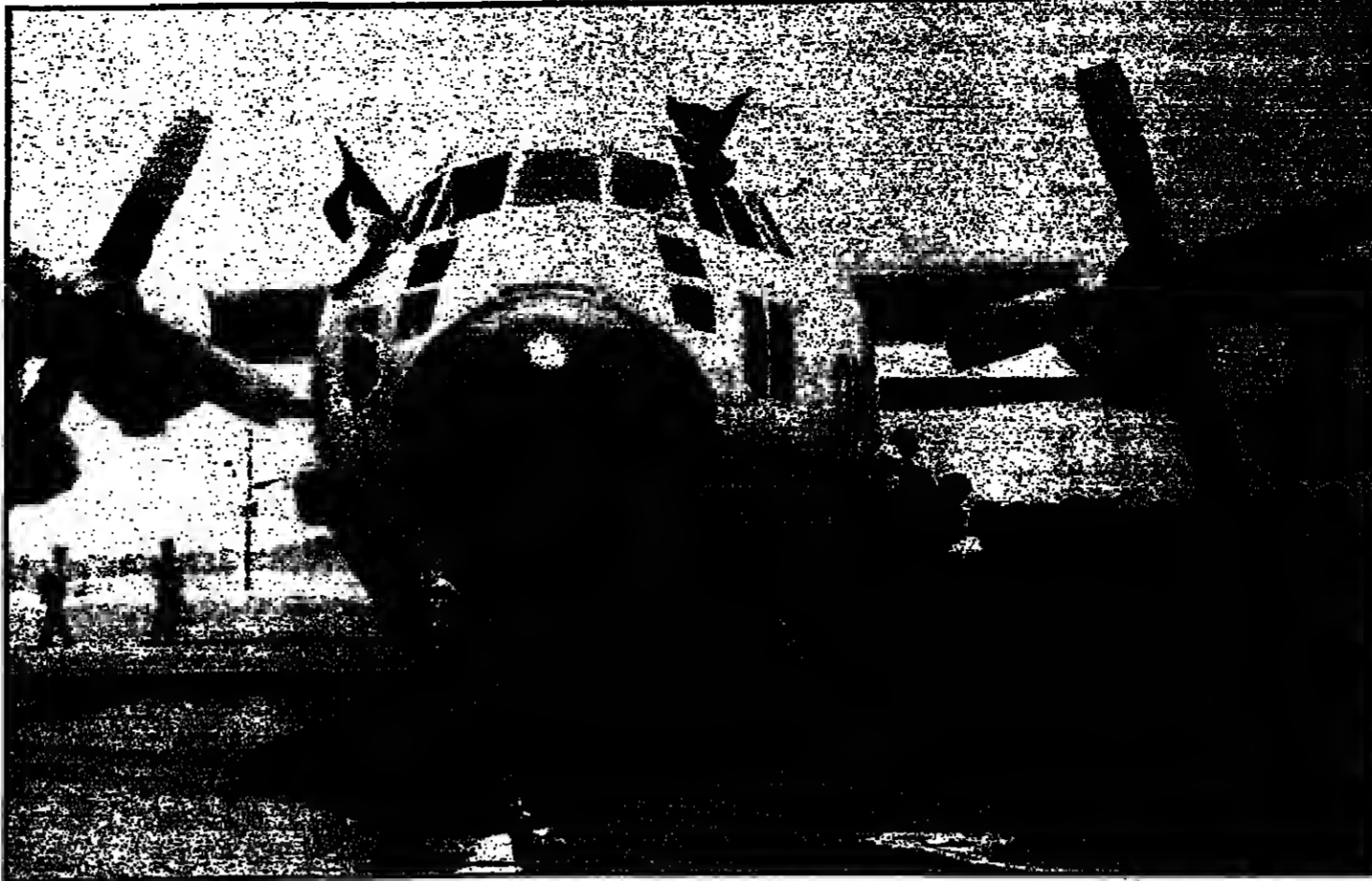
The report quoted an Islamic Resistance source as saying that the organization had identified two targets in the region. The gunmen sent on the operation had been told to choose which one to hit according to their decisions in the field.

"We knew the exact spot of the enemy's nightly ambush. We only used Kalashnikov rifles in an attack that lasted for about 10 minutes," the newspaper quoted the source as saying.

According to the report, one of the gunmen gave covering fire when the rest decided to disengage and withdraw.

"The martyr [the gunman who was killed] advanced and opened fire on an officer and his radio operator, who were trying to establish contact," the source was quoted as saying.

The Islamic Resistance official also maintained that it took a long time for IDF reinforcements to get to the scene.



A welcoming committee approaches a Moroccan air force Hercules which landed at the Gaza airport yesterday carrying 40 tons of food and medical supplies.

Moroccan plane lands at Gaza airport

RAFAH (AP) - A Moroccan cargo plane carrying 14 tons of medicine and foodstuffs landed at Gaza's new airport yesterday, the first flight to bring relief aid to Palestinians.

After touchdown, three IDF officers searched the Hercules plane and the cargo. It was only the second landing at the month-old airport, which was inaugurated when Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's plane was transferred to Gaza from Egypt two weeks ago.

"This is a historic day," said Brig. Fayez Zeidan, the head of the Palestinian civil aviation authority. He thanked Moroccan King Hassan for the aid.

Gaza has been suffering economically under the closure imposed on Feb. 25 in response to a series of suicide bombings.

Israel still controls air, land, and sea access to Gaza, but the new airport will allow Palestinians to bring in goods more easily than through the frequently jammed land crossings, Palestinian

Health Minister Riyad Zanooni said. Israel refused to allow two Egyptian helicopters to land at the Gaza airport two weeks ago, reportedly because the airport's operating procedure was still under negotiation.

Voice of Palestine radio said the airport, which presently has only one runway, will be ready to receive more planes next week.

The airport is only to be completed within a year at a total investment of \$48 million. Some \$18 million already has been spent on it.

Parents of Arad Festival victims want event canceled

THE parents of three teenagers crushed to death during last July's Arad music festival have asked the Tel Aviv District Court to prevent this year's festival from opening because the same organizers, "with hood on their hands," are involved.

The parents of Eitan Peleg, 17, Na'ama El-Kariv, 15, and Chen Yitzhak, 16, said that the conclusions reached after last year's disaster, when the three were trampled to death, have not led to changes, and holding another festival under similar arrangements would be life-threatening.

An additional 150 youngsters were injured in the stampede that occurred before a concert at last year's festival. In an investiga-

tion, some 200 people - including police and security officers, organizers, ticket sellers and the mayor of Arad - were questioned.

In response to the suit, Arad Mayor Bezael Tabib told Army Radio yesterday that the festival should go ahead "in memory of last year's victims."

The petition was filed against Tabib, the Jewish Agency and the Science and Arts Ministry. The parents also asked that no memorial ceremony be held in Arad without their written consent, since this would only be used by the organizers as a publicity stunt to sell more tickets.

Judge Efraim Shalev scheduled a hearing for July 8.

Raine Marcus

Man gets 10 years for killing ex-wife

RAINE MARCUS

A TEL AVIV man who shot his former wife to death was sentenced to 10 years in prison by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday, after a plea bargain which reduced the murder charge to one of manslaughter.

Amnon Harazi, 44, was drunk when he shot his ex-wife Ariella Shahar and had not planned to kill the mother of his four children, his lawyers said.

Shahar remarried, but continued

to have violent fights with Harazi, though she never filed a complaint with police.

According to the charge sheet, in September 1995 Harazi arrived at the home of Shahar's neighbor, and, threatening him with a pistol, ordered him to tell his former wife to come outside. When Shahar stepped outside her apartment, Harazi shot her in the chest. He was caught later by police while sitting in a coffee shop.

In court yesterday, he said he regretted his actions and had not meant to kill Shahar.

The prosecution agreed to the manslaughter charge because of difficulties it would have proving the premeditation necessary for a murder conviction.

Volunteers required for ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG July 1-31 Free board and lodging Registration fee: 50\$ Call: 02-854591 (evenings)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Meshulam's followers end hunger strike

Uzi Meshulam and his followers, dispersed in prisons nationwide following disruptions, yesterday officially ended their 50-day hunger strike, on condition that the group receives glatt kosher food.

Raine Marcus

Bathing barred at Dead Sea beach

The Health Ministry yesterday barred bathing at the Hamei Zohar Beach at the Dead Sea, due to a flow of sewage in the area that could endanger health. The source of the contamination was the pumping station of the Moriah Hotel, which is not functioning properly.

Judy Siegel

State appeals Dinitz verdict

The state yesterday appealed former Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Dinitz's partial acquittal on fraud charges, as well as the lightness of his sentence.

Dinitz was convicted of charging some \$6,700 worth of personal expenses to the agency via his Syms credit card, but was acquitted of charging \$15,400 worth of personal expenses to the agency via an agency American-Express card.

Evelyn Gordon

The Jerusalem District Court sentenced him to an NIS 40,000 fine. The state is arguing both that the partial acquittal was unjustified, and that the sentence is far too light given the severity of the crime.

Latest terror victim's condition improves

Nitza Alush, wounded in the terror attack in Bidiya Sunday in which her husband Meir was shot dead, was allowed out of Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva to attend her husband's funeral in Binyamina yesterday, and then returned to the hospital. Her doctors said she should be released tomorrow.

Itim

WEATHER

Jerusalem 15-24
Tel Aviv 23-27
Haifa 21-27
Beersheba 20-29
Samarra 16-25
Afula 20-29
Tiberias 21-27
Golan 15-22
Dead Sea 23-25
Eilat 24-37

Forecast: Clear. Lower than usual temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cloud
Aberdeen	11	17	partly
Berlin	11	17	partly
Bombay	24	32	partly
Buenos Aires	17	22	partly
Cairo	19	28	partly
Chicago	15	22	partly
Copenhagen	11	17	partly
Frankfurt	11	17	partly
Helsinki	11	17	partly
Hong Kong	24	32	partly
London	11	17	partly
Los Angeles	15	22	partly
Moscow	11	17	partly
New York	15	22	partly
Paris	11	17	partly
Rome	11	17	partly
Sydney	15	22	partly
Tokyo	15	22	partly
Vienna	11	17	partly
Zurich	11	17	partly

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, king of hearts, queen of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

Rabbi in 'Event' scuffle cleared of two charges

NETANYA Magistrate's Court last week convicted Hebrew University Rabbi Nathan Ophir, of behavior threatening the public order, and interfering with a policeman in the line of duty. The court exonerated him on two other charges - assaulting a public servant and assaulting a policeman.

Ophir was arrested on October 10, 1995 and charged with leading a group of protesters who allegedly tried to break past policemen and General Security Service bodyguards protecting prime minister Yitzhak Rabin during an appearance at the Jerusalem Post-sponsored event at the Wingate Institute.

Sentence will be handed down in September.

Jerusalem Post Staff

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